

CHAMBER NEWS



Kathy Covey, CEO of the Blue Mountain Action Council, orders the first pizza at the newly opened Mod Pizza in Walla Walla. Proceeds from the Grand Opening went to Blue Mountain Action Council.

December 2018

DECEMBER...THANKFULLY



Steve Owens
Member Services

December...what the heck! Seems we were just saying Happy New Year. Tried to catch up on all my thank-yous over the Thanksgiving Holiday, but didn't quite make it all the way through the list.

From a Chamber of Commerce perspective, there is indeed a lot to be thankful for.

First, to our members, thank you for your support, as always. We will continue to work hard to earn your trust, and to fine-tune our benefits and services so we can provide the highest return on your investment in us, and to create and maintain a healthy, vibrant business climate here in the Valley.

For those of you keeping track, you may know that it has been an interesting year here at the Chamber. Staff comings-and-goings have left us short-handed here and there. So thank-you to all of our event volunteers, committee members, and staff at various businesses who

donated their time, energy and resources to help us out along the way. We couldn't do it without you.

And a special big THANK-YOU to our Ambassadors, whose job (aside from their other jobs that actually pay them) is to show up and help us pull off all the events we do, among other things. There is no way we can repay you for the generosity of spirit that you all show week in and week out, but we will continue to try. And from our staff here at the Chamber, thank-you to a group that rarely gets recognized, our Board of Directors, who have helped us navigate some choppy waters over the last year. You've all gone above and beyond this year, and we appreciate it.

Thank you to Mike, Harvey and Lisa at the City of College Place for their tireless efforts to raise the bar on just about everything. It's been a pleasure and an education working with you over the past year. You're making us all better. Thank you to Walla Walla...its people, its places, its passion for community and collaboration. The amount of grass-roots energy here could power a small city...and I guess it kind

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LOCAL WINNERS FEATURED EXHIBIT OF 2018 ANNUAL BANQUET

The 136th Annual Community Awards Banquet lived up to its billing of a “Night at the Museum” on Wednesday, December 5. The Marcus Whitman Hotel, which hosted the event, was transformed into an evening of museum-inspired fun.

The focal point of the evening was the presentation of community awards, including the prestigious Man & Woman of the Year (Awards of Merit), Hometown Hero Awards and the Ambassador of the Year, all of which were presented by the Chamber. Walla Walla Community College, Whitman College and Walla Walla University all recognized their own outstanding individuals as well.

This year's top honors went to:

- Jim Peterson, Man of the Year
- Tera Davis, Woman of the Year
- Blaine Lim, Ambassador of the Year
- Kelsey Dill, Hometown Hero - Educator of the Year
- John Knowles, Hometown Hero – Firefighter of the Year
- Ryan Allen, Hometown Hero – Nick Henzel Community Service Award / Law Enforcement Officer of the Year
- John Hibbits, Walla Walla Community College Community Service Award
- Dan Lamberton, Walla Walla University Community Service Award
- Mitch Clearfield, Whitman College Pete & Hedda Reid Award

In the highly competitive Table Decorating Contest, 1st place was awarded to Walla Walla University while Walla Walla Community College and Providence St. Mary came in 2nd and 3rd, respectively.

Please Note: Additional photos from the evening, including the Man & Woman of the Year and Ambassador of the Year, will be available on our facebook page in the coming days.



From left: Steve Owens, Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce; Tawnya Richards, Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce and Mickey Richards.



2018 Fire Fighter of the Year Award winner John Knowles.



2018 Educator of the Year Award winner Kelsey Dill.



Law Enforcement Officer of the Year / Nick Henzel Community Service Award winner Ryan Allen. Award accepted by Lloyd Red-burg.



1st Place in the highly competitive Table Decorating Contest was claimed by Walla Walla University.



2018 Walla Walla Community College Community Service Award winner John Hibbits.



2018 Walla Walla University Community Service Award winner Dan Lamberton.



2018 Whitman College Pete & Hedda Reid Award winner Mitch Clearfield.



NOVEMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Business After Hours hosted by Eritage Resort on November 13.



PHOTO GALLERY

PHOTOS FROM OUR RECENT EVENTS



1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY & RIBBON CUTTING

1-Year Anniversary & Grand Reopening Celebration at M.T. Head Brewery on December 7.

MEMBERS' NEWSFLASH

HANSEL & GRETEL HOUSES – DECEMBER 12

Kids of all ages are invited for a sweet afternoon of building holiday houses from graham crackers, super-stiff icing, and lots of fun candy at the YWCA on Wednesday, Dec. 12. The cost of this holiday tradition is \$5 plus one non-perishable food item per child to share with the YWCA domestic violence shelter. Space is limited, so registration is required. Parents can sign up their child for 45-minute slots at 2:30, 3:30 or 4:30 PM by calling the YWCA at 509-525-2570. For children 5 and younger, an adult is kindly asked to stay for the duration of the event.

SANTA! I KNOW HIM! – DECEMBER 13

Christmas will be here before we know it, and the team at Misbehaven Spa & Salon is excited to have Santa visit the salon on December 13th from 4-7pm. Bring your kids to meet him and get a photo taken. Misbehaven will have cookies and hot chocolate for those in attendance to enjoy.

BARREL FULL OF MONEY – DECEMBER 14

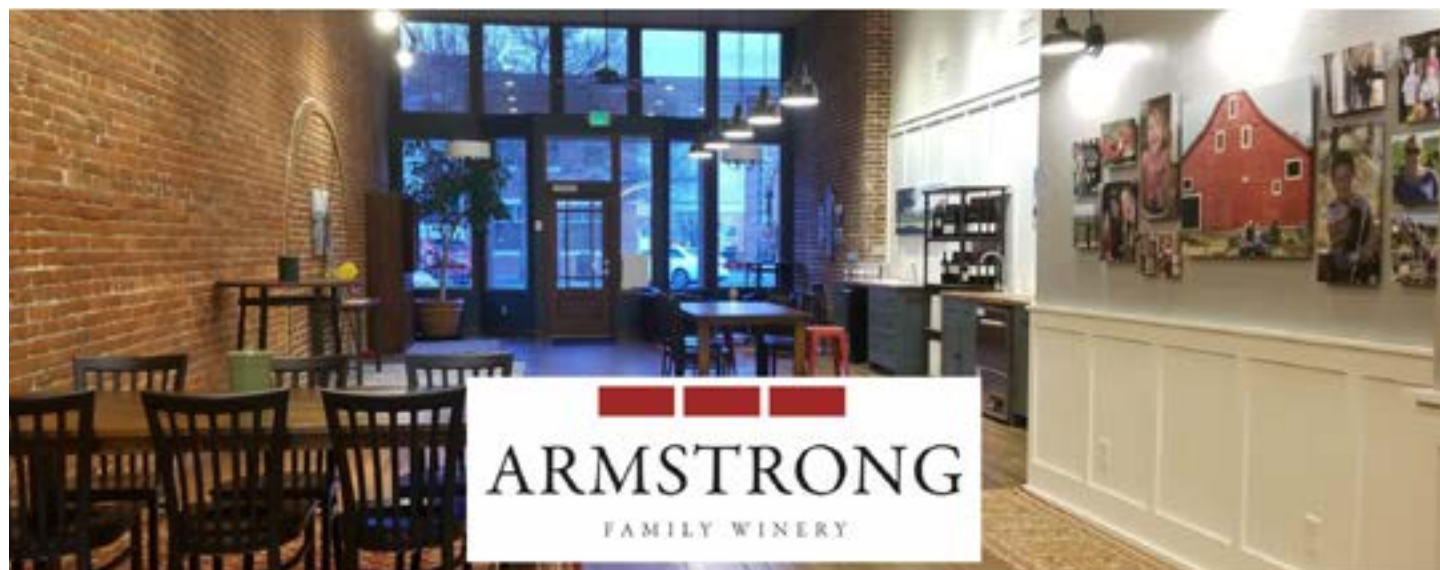
Help raise a Barrel Full of Money for the Blue Mountain Action Council Food Bank! Join BMAC on Friday, December 14, for an auction and wine reception at Dunham Cellars in Walla Walla. Bid on special wines, dining experiences and more during the silent auction, sip on award-winning wines courtesy of Dunham Cellars and indulge in appetizers from Olive Marketplace and Cafe Catering while listening to live music from the talented Debra Arlyn & The Goodness. ALL proceeds will go directly to Blue Mountain Action Council's Food Bank. With each dollar raised, BMAC can provide \$6 in food assistance to those in need. Thank you for making a difference! Get your tickets today at <http://barrelfulofmoney.eventbrite.com>

LAURENT PERRIER: 50 YEARS OF CUVÉE ROSÉ – DECEMBER 21

Laurent Perrier and The Thief Fine Wine & Beer proudly team up for Washington State's EXCLUSIVE 50th Anniversary Celebration of Laurent Perrier's Brut Rosé Champagne Friday, December 21 from 5-8pm. Macarons, balloons, 4 different Laurent Perrier champagnes, a birdcage, you name it...it's going to be a party.

BUCKIN' BASH NEW YEAR'S EVE RODEO – DECEMBER 31

Bull Riding, Ranch Broncs, Breakaway, Chute Dogging, Team Roping, and Barrel Racing... Come spend New Year's Eve at a Buckin' Bash Rodeo! Food and beverages will be available as well as a 21 and over area! Rodeo starts at 7 PM in the Expo Building at the Walla Walla Fairgrounds! [Click here](#) for more info.



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Jennifer Armstrong | jennifer@armstrongwinery.com | 509-524-8494
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 14 West Main St., Walla Walla

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Event Support

Izzy the Camel
 Fort Walla Walla Museum
 College Place High School Dream Lab



CONTENTMENT VS. AMBITION



Toby Salazar
T-Barbershop
sleep away like Rip Van Winkle. This is where the majority of us find ourselves. Contentment vs Ambition.

Well, well. Here we are again. Trees are bare and the leaves are on the ground. The fall is over, and so is harvest & tourist season. It's so cold outside and under the covers we feel so warm and cozy.

translates to 0 margin of error. So we tend to become content and go into cruise control. This is when we need to tell ourselves, it's time to unwind the hypocrisy in our lives.

Igniting the passion in our minds. It's easier said than done. Where do I start? The best place to start is by using our great resources we have here in town. WWU, Whitman College, WWCC and WSU extension office. These institutions have great libraries and even have great keynote speakers and some classes or workshops that are offered to the public. And for business capital or guidance we have the Small Business Development Center and Mercy Corps. These two organizations are the yin and yang of any new business owner. Mercy Corps gives access to capital. SBDC teaches you how to pay taxes. Become more active in the Chamber of Commerce. We have great networking opportunities and special events. Being a member of the chamber of commerce is worth its weight in gold.

For here in Walla Walla we find ourselves living with the seasons. And with the seasons we have an ebb and flow of money & time. It's this time of the year we lose the flow of money, but we get back free time. How do we value our free time. For most it's an optimal time for vacation. But what if you don't leave? Should we continue to waste time on internet or gaming? Or realize the true beauty of free time. If you find value in free time, it's the perfect time to assess this past year. Now that everything slows down. And set goals for this upcoming year. Also perfect time to do research and development.

The human brain during our youth is not scared. We are born with wonder and ambition, but with father time we naturally become content. Either by starting a family or having to make home/car payments. It is this moment we realize we have dependents. So that

You see this new formed passion in our mind is still not enough. For some we never realized there was a plethora of knowledge and resources right in front of us the whole time. Cause the majority are looking to google for guidance. Why turn to artificial intelligence, when we have great human beings right here. The last thing we need to overcome is fear. The fear of taking a chance. For even if we fail, life is not over. From chaos there is birth. So in this winter while most are online or sleeping

away like sleeping beauty. Prepare yourself to make an educated decision. Whether it be a new endeavour, expand business or climb the corporate ladder. Be alive and live your life, don't let social media control your life. And light the last flame of passion under your butt. So that you'll get off your butts and use your will-power to put your new plans into motion. Well my friends there's only one thing left to do "spiral out and keep going"

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Chamber Ambassador & 2018 Annual Banquet Event Coordinator, Kylie Sheckler, poses for a photo with Izzy the camel.

DECEMBER...THANKFULLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of does. (Side-note: As a father of two Walla Walla Public Schools "lifers," thank-you Walla Walla voters for passing the school bond. We get hundreds of people through our doors and on the phone every year who want to talk about living here and/or starting a business, and they always ask about schools. Thank you for providing me with a better answer.)

And from Marissa and Tawnya and me, thank you for your patience. Every organization goes through change...some planned, some unforeseen. Either way, we have to act. We have to produce. We have to keep moving forward. And we have to get better. And we are more than happy to do that work for you. Walla Walla deserves the best, and the things we do best, we do together.

So what's up for 2019?

Stay tuned. Thanks again, and Happy New Year.

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PREVIEW NIGHT MONDAY, JANUARY 10 AT 5:30PM AT THE CHAMBER



THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES

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- | | | |
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| Greg Kettner
<i>Greg Kettner Speaks</i> | Peggy Cazier
<i>Lloyd's Insurance, Inc.</i> | Kristine Bono
<i>Tertulia Cellars</i> |
| Blaine Lim
<i>New Vision Properties</i> | Ashley Rubon
<i>Coldwell Banker First Realtors</i> | Amy Quandt
<i>Chase Bank</i> |
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DECEMBER **EVENTS**

Check online for updates & to register for events

- 10** EASTERN EUROPE PREVIEW NIGHT @ The Chamber – 5:30pm
- 11** BUSINESS AFTER HOURS @ Armstrong Winery – 5:30pm

JANUARY **EVENTS**

Check online for updates & to register for events

- 10** AUSTRALIA PREVIEW NIGHT @ The Chamber – 5:30pm
- 8** BUSINESS AFTER HOURS @ Big House Brew Pub – 5:30pm