We are excited to have seen such an enthusiastic welcome to our new program with chamber member Lunar Cow Publishing. Our Annual Chamber Business and Community Guide is getting a much-needed print refresh with enhanced imaging and layouts but also migrating to a highly interactive cloud-based solution. The “GoGuide” is fully scalable and searchable on any device and will provide access to all your websites with one-click.

As members you will as always retain your line-item listing at no cost in the directory; however, this new platform inclusion makes it possible to not only increase your return on investment but grow and track it many times over with additional advertising arenas. Our Chamber Membership and Communications team is available to guide you through the process and will provide access to all your websites with one-click.

Sponsors:
Port Townsend Marine Trades Association
Port Townsend Paper Company
EDC / Team Jefferson

This mobile interactive community mapping software is designed for mobile users who are looking to interact with your business. They will be able to view primary and secondary categories that will display the information that is being searched. The information on iMap can be viewed easily on their smartphones, tablets, laptops, and desktops like never before and shared through email, social media and may also be downloaded or printed. Your business or organization could even offer printable/downloadable coupons and special discounts to users of this system.

Our enthusiasm for these products and what they bring to our business and community is evident to all and the numbers of you participating is growing daily. We thank you for your early support and look forward to working with you in exploring the best ways for YOUR business to engage!
Director’s Report

by Executive Director Arlene Alen, CPM, IOM

While 2019’s Holiday season seems to have started early and is in full swing, there is no lull in activity planned for this Chamber. The Plaza Sculpture dedication along with the Art Walk that followed were very well attended and received. The Fill the Bus event for Kiwanis Toys for Tots will be the first time we see Jefferson Street closed to traffic for an event. Working in cooperation with the Police Department, this highly visible venue has great potential for your upcoming projects.

As you know, we are rapidly putting together the 2020 Chamber Business & Community Guide, the GoGuide and its printed partner along with the iMap web integration and a Winter marketing campaign for Port Townsend visitors in conjunction with our partner Fort Worden.

We have our Volunteer 2020 training set for early in the year so if you or a friend were thinking of jumping in and helping in any programmatic capacity this is a great time to get on the list.

2020 is the Year of Entrepreneurship at the Chamber for our Community. We started promoting local entrepreneurs in the Business Insider over a year ago and have been quietly incubating some very small businesses and working with our partners the EDC on assisting other businesses in moving forward with startup and expansion. There is a great business buzz in JeffCo right now and we are proud to be part of it.

We will be holding several community conversations around entrepreneurship in JeffCo and continuing to tell the story as a leadup to the First Annual Entrepreneur Expo set for October 24, 2020.

Along with our Community Partners, we will grow this into a larger scale fast-pitch Expo and Forum going forward in our continuous efforts of telling the real story of Jefferson County to build business and community. An exciting task force of community leaders is forming now around these conversations and the Expo. Join us! Reach out to me via email or text and let’s talk.

Jefferson County Community Leadership Awards

It’s not too early to start thinking about who you will nominate for the Jefferson County Community Leadership Awards. Saturday, April 25th at Old Alcohol Plant. Categories this year will remain; Business Leader of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Rising Entrepreneur, Young Professional of the Year, Future Business Leader of the Year (Awarded to a graduating High School Senior). Nominations forms will be available after Thanksgiving on the Chamber website, by request from staff or through any Chamber Board member. Nominees and nominators do not need to be Chamber members. This program is an annual recognition of the dedication and engagement of our Jefferson County residents and employees and we are honored to be able to host this event annually for our community.

Reflecting your requests, we are making some changes...
Newport Academy Seeks to Aid in Mental Health Crisis

Newport Academy, formerly Gray Wolf Ranch, off Hastings Avenue, is one of Jefferson County’s organizations that provides aid in the mental health arena. Newport Academy recently purchased the 20-acre ranch and organization and is working to expand upon the great legacy that Gray Wolf Ranch began in 1996. Newport Academy founder and Executive Chairman Jamison Monroe shared, “As an alumnus of the program, Gray Wolf is a special place for me, and I am excited to be a part of its continued success to ensure that more families will benefit from treatment here.”

Newport Academy Port Townsend addresses our country’s mental health crisis through an integrated treatment approach that heals the root causes, not just the symptoms, of self-destructive behaviors. Moreover, Newport Academy employs comprehensive assessments that help ensure each person receives a tailored treatment plan based on individual and family needs. Newport Academy uses clinical, therapeutic, and integrated modalities; these methods help Newport Academy to be comprehensive, family-focused, and results-oriented. Another keystone of Newport Academy is family therapy. In Newport’s view, family therapy is an opportunity to help teens and families build resilience, enhance the relationship of the entire family unit, and foster healthy, authentic connections. Above all, Newport works from a foundation of compassion and love, assisting young people in building identity, connection, self-esteem, and life skills that allow them to find their place in the world.

Newport Academy runs teen and young adult mental health treatment centers across the United States, including gender-specific residential campuses for males and females, outpatient and partial hospitalization programs, and Therapeutic Day Schools. The Newport Academy location in Port Townsend serves adolescent and young adult men struggling with mental health and co-occurring issues, including depression, anxiety, trauma, and substance-use disorder. Experts on staff include psychiatrists, therapists, registered dieticians, nurses, licensed social workers, teachers, and more. Empowering teens and restoring families is the core mission.

One of the major areas of focus for Newport Academy is youth depression. Mental Health America reported in their annual survey that 12.54 percent of teens and young adults in Washington State, about 64,000 adolescents every year, suffer from major depression. To make matters worse, 62.5 percent of youth in Washington State with major depression are not receiving any mental health services whatsoever. Know that Newport Academy is available as a mental health resource for depression and other challenges. Please help keep the conversation going about awareness of mental health challenges in our Pacific Northwest community today.


Newport Academy
3804 Hastings Ave W, Port Townsend, WA 98368
https://www.newportacademy.com/

Newport Academy has immediate openings for entry level care providers, nurses, and a clinical director leadership opportunity. To apply, visit https://www.newportacademy.com/about/careers/. Newport Academy is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

What do you get?...

When you have two individuals with brilliant minds, devoted to their organizations, and advocates for the Chamber and community of Jefferson County? The answer is Kris Nelson and Rob Birman. Many know Kris and Rob for their tireless work for the organizations and boards they represent, but lesser known is why the chamber of commerce has been a passion of theirs for so many years and what that passion led to.

Reasons to join a chamber have changed drastically over the last 10 plus years. Kris, a Port Townsend native and owner of Sirens Pub, Alchemy Bistro and Wine Bar, The In-Between, The Old Whiskey Mill, and President of Main Street, originally joined the board 12 years ago because as Kris shared, “that was what you did!” As the years passed, she began to witness a deeper value; in Kris’ words: “the chamber actively works to strengthen the community by building up and connecting all different sizes and kinds of businesses.”

Rob, originally of Philadelphia and Executive Director of Centrum, joined the board soon after he came to Port Townsend in 2013. For Rob, “joining the chamber was/is civic responsibility; it is a way to support a robust and thriving economy and to be involved in the very fabric of our community. I knew I could help give focus to the chamber and help develop strategies.”

For both Kris and Rob, there were unexpected values to joining a chamber beyond networking and having a return on investment. Kris found that she built up public speaking skills that helped in future positions with the city, Main Street, and more. Also, shared Kris, “-I met mentors and people that I look up to and learn from; I look around at our current board and am so impressed by the vibrant, creative, and intelligent group of people sharing ideas and helping to make our community and businesses stronger.” Similarly, Rob shared that he has appreciated the “unique gathering of voices from across the county” and was “very impressed by the strength, vision, and prominence of women leaders in our business community.”

Times shift and change, as do chambers, especially to meet the needs of the current community. Kris is excited about mid-2020 chamber task force opportunities. Rob is thrilled that the chamber is “growing, changing, and staying current with the times and technology so as to give value and be useful to members.” Both Kris and Rob are looking for the chamber to continue its advocacy for individuals and businesses and to grow in its awareness of our shifting community and economy.

The Chamber of Jefferson County would like to publicly thank Kris and Rob for their 12 and 6 years respectively, of incredible dedication and service. As Arlene Alen, Chamber Executive Director, expressed, “Kris and Rob brought a high level of professionalism and highly desirable skill sets to the board, they have improved and strengthened the board and done so since the day they each joined. Both are supremely talented individuals and we are grateful for their lengthy service. Kris and Rob- I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with you both so closely this past 18 months- you will be truly missed!”

Continued from pg. 2

at the Chamber for 2020 which are in the final stages of development and will be announced at the Chamber January Luncheon. We will be having only one January luncheon and it’s going to be a “don’t miss” event- Chamber 2020. Learn our plans and process for the year, our events, our commitments, programs and community commitments. Meet the staff, volunteers and our Board. This presentation while important for our members is even more so for our other businesses and community citizens.

Bits & Pieces!

The Reader Board is open for reservations for the first six months of 2020. Please don’t wait until the last minute to try and schedule your Reader Board ads, it does book up early. Membership is not a requirement. info@jeffcountychamber.org is the best way to get on that board.

Chamber After Hours Mixer hosts are currently stepping up for 2020, please reach out to us if you are interested. If you do not have a physical location, we may be able to partner you with an organization who does. This year, our hosts will have the additional benefit of showcasing one of their nonprofit partners at their Mixer. Let us tell you how!

We’ve been through some transitions at the Chamber and some infrastructure building, now we are growing and expanding programs and services and excited to share our future with you.

Thank all of you for this great year in Jefferson County and the work you are doing to grow this community for a sustainable future, on our housing and workforce issues and diversity, along with so much more. This community is engaged and it’s exciting. Thank you for welcoming me into this amazing culture, your businesses, and your lives. See you in 2020!
Peninsula Credit Union

**With Our Thanks**

Thank you to our November Luncheon Speakers: *Siobhan Canty, JCF & Dave Robison, Fort Worden*

And our sponsors *Bunny’s Bath, Quimper Mercantile, Active Life Therapy, and the Port Townsend Aero Museum.*

Plus

Thank you to our Mixer Host: **Dailey Computer Consulting Inc.**

Congratulations to our November 2019 Ribbon Cutters: *Apex Balance & Rehabilitation and El Molcajete Mexican Grill*

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**Article provided by Peninsula Credit Union**

We know you have options when it comes to choosing who to bank with. Peninsula Credit Union may not be the biggest bank, and we’re okay with that. In fact, we’re proud to be small enough to care about our members and big enough to help. Whether you’re taking steps to recover from a tough time or getting ready for your next big step, Peninsula will be right there beside you. We are a federally chartered credit union. We proudly serve Kitsap, Mason, Jefferson, Clallam and Grays Harbor counties. Peninsula Credit Union is one of the nation’s first community-chartered, member-owned credit unions. In January, we will kick off celebrating our 85th birthday! The Rainier Pulp and Paper Company, Shelton, Washington, Federal Credit Union was created on September 19, 1935. Since then other name changes have taken place as the charter has expanded. Today, Peninsula Credit Union serves more than 19,000 members. Our name has changed, but our mission has not—we still want to serve people who need it.

Looking for a second chance?

If you feel like you need a fresh start, we’d love to talk with you about how we can help. Everyone you’ll meet at Peninsula is a certified financial counselor, from our team members in IT, to marketing, to behind the counter. Our thinking is that no matter who you come across on the Peninsula team, that person is ready to assess your current situation, make a plan with you, and help you take steps to rebound and find solid ground. Financial counseling means we sit down and help provide basic budgeting to in-depth loan, payment, and finance information. ANY PERSON can walk in, even if you have been declined for accounts or loans in the past, share your story, and have help achieving your goals. Recently, one of our members shared she has only ever been able to pick from two cars due to her credit score. For the first time ever, with Peninsula Credit Union’s help, that member is picking out the car of her dreams.

Life happens to us all. If you’ve gone through a rough time and are feeling financially unstable, our Second Chance products may be right for you. Program examples include “Borrow and Save” that helps you break from the cycle of living month-to-month and save for the future, or “Save to Win” where every $5 you deposit earns you an entry into monthly, quarterly, and annual cash prize drawings. “Renew Checking” removes overdraft fees altogether, “Shared Secure Visa” assists you in building a stronger credit score, and the list continues. We offer a range of options, and together, we can create a plan that works best for you.

What’s Next?

Peninsula Credit Union continues to support the community in all the ways it can. We sponsor the Jefferson County Farmers Market music every week from April to November as well as Relay for Life, Credit Union for Kids and Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, and the Port Townsend Food Bank. One exciting community opportunity that you may not know about is the Peninsula Education Grant. Any primary or secondary educator in Jefferson County at a public or accredited private school, whether they are a member of Peninsula Credit Union or not, can apply for up to $500 grants every year.

Call us at 1-800-426-1601 or stop by your local Peninsula branch to get started on a new path or learn about an event or program. We are here for you!

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**Peninsula Credit Union**

1250 W Sims Way
Port Townsend, WA 98368
Phone: 1-800-426-1601
https://www.pcfcu.org/
El Molcajete Mexican Grill

Looking for fresh ingredients, authentic and delicious Mexican cuisine? You will definitely want to visit Port Ludlow’s new Mexican Grill El Molcajete!

It Takes a Village

El Molcajete opened September 17th, 2019 on Village Way next to the Port Ludlow Village Market. Port Townsend locals and El Molcajete’s owners, Julia and Carlos Soto, were told by numerous customers of their well-loved seasonal taco truck to open a restaurant in the area. The Sotos have been cooking for decades throughout Washington; in addition to the taco truck, the Sotos co-own a restaurant with Carlos’ siblings in Shelton and have helped extended family run a Mexican grill in Key Port for years. Julia and Carlos had driven through the Port Ludlow area years previous and noticed a need for restaurants; it was there they decided to open their business.

It is no easy feat to create a business and a restaurant in under a year, in a remote location. Nonetheless, that is exactly what the Sotos were able to accomplish thanks to help from the Port Ludlow Associates and the Soto family, particularly Julia and Carlos’ daughter and son, Ayelen and Carlos. El Molcajete is the first restaurant that Julia and Carlos have owned and run themselves. The Sotos transformed an empty, bare-boned building into a bright, comfortable space with cheery walls, succulent decorations, and traditional el molcajete bowls. In fact, the restaurant is named after this traditional Mexican bowl. El Molcajete is akin to a pestle and mortar; it is a bowl made for grinding spices, salsa, meat, and more.

About the Food

On the subject of salsa and spices, did you know that El Molcajete’s menu items are made fresh daily and the majority of dishes are gluten-free? To add to that, people are already talking about El Molcajete’s house fajitas, burritos, and tasty margaritas. If you want to order the owners’ favorites, try the pork canitas, Julia’s favorite, or the Carne Asada, Carlos’ favorite. In short- you can’t go wrong with El Molcajete’s cuisine.

Thank You From the Team

Julia and Carlos wish to thank the community for the kind and grand welcome! Also, they are grateful for their experienced and hardworking employees. The El Molcajete team is committed to continuing to provide excellent customer service and authentic Mexican cuisine. They are currently open 7 days a week, 11 am to 9 pm. Call 360-344-8317 with questions or visit 76 Village Way, Port Ludlow and bring your appetite!

Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting

El Molcajete celebrated their Grand Opening with a ribbon cutting and tasting to the delight of the Port Ludlow and surrounding communities. An experienced restaurateur family, the Soto’s have hit this one out of the park. Busy since day one or their soft opening and a growing loyal customer base for their friendly service, great atmosphere and most importantly, fabulous food! Visit them at 76 Village Way, Port Ludlow, call them, 360.344.8317 or email elmolcajetegrill01@gmail.com.
Women Doing Business (WDB)

A Chamber 2020 initiative that has proven successful for many other Chambers and is receiving a great deal of local support from our dedicated and engaged women in our business community. WDB is conceived by women and for women with a local task force of prominent women meeting to set the agenda for a series of breakfast meetings in 2020. This is designed to bring education and enlightening programs to women professionals in Jefferson County and to recognize women in the community who demonstrate leadership. This program allows our successful entrepreneurs and business/organization professionals to nurture and nourish other women and to serve as community mentors to coming generations.

This task force is meeting now to complete plans for 2020. If sharing your knowledge and experience is your personal commitment, we can assist you in making that happen. Join this task force and help us shape the future of Jefferson County. Reach out to director@jeffcountychamber.org and let’s talk.

Joining a group like this and participating in their programs will assist you in developing a support system and open opportunities you might not have on your own. There is professional and leadership development and networking toward strategic business alliances, affiliations and business opportunities. Or join the group to learn “the secrets of success” from other women entrepreneurs, to be mentored or become a mentor, or to be inspired by knowledgeable speakers with topics and activities to provide both personal and professional development to Jefferson County. Get engaged!
CHAMBER MIXER

December 10th
@ 5:30 – 7:00 pm
Fort Worden
Officers Row 4E & 4W

Join us for an evening like only Fort Worden can provide - great food, fun, beverages, and that special holiday magic!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Ron Brantner

If you’re in need a smile or laugh make sure to visit the Visitors Information Center, also known as “the VIC”, on Jefferson next to West Sims Way and ask for Ron Brantner. Ron has been volunteering at the VIC for over 20 years. Due to health challenges, Ron has had to cut back recently on weekly activities, but he refuses to stop volunteering. When asked what keeps him coming back to volunteer at the VIC, Ron shared with a straight face and gleam in his eye, “picture sitting at home in an easy chair, watching Hallmark movies and TV all day... it’s just better to be here and help every person who walks through the door. I meet people from around the world, I get to make strangers smile, and I’m amazed because I’m even finding and learning things on the computer.”

Born on the southside of Chicago, Illinois, Ron grew up loving sports and theater. Some of his favorite high school memories were playing football, running track, and acting in plays like “You Can’t Take It With You.” After attending several colleges, Ron got a position at the Chicago Tribune in the marketing department. Not too long after, Ron was offered the position of manager at the Chicago Tribune Credit Union, the start of 60 years of managing and directing credit unions. Then in ’96, Ron’s family moved to Port Townsend to be closer to friends in the area. Ron lives a couple blocks from the Visitor’s Center with his dynamic partner Rosemary Nielsen, who manages the hospital gift shop.

Ron enjoys being a part of the local Elks lodge, joining in periodic script readings in the Port Ludlow theater scene, and of course, volunteering at the VIC. Ryan shared, “I learned back in high school I have a talent for making people laugh and I love that I get to put on bit of a show here (at the VIC) ... I love questions and helping people find answers.”

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Chamber and our Community President's Circle

Extreme Visionary

Vineyard

Visionaries

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