

# KALISPELL

Chamber of Commerce  
Convention & Visitor Bureau



It's Flathead Manufacturing Month! Join us to see how Kalispell Brewing Co and other manufacturers from across the Flathead make it all happen.

## KALISPELL CHAMBER NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2018

### CELEBRATING MANUFACTURING IN THE FLATHEAD. TRANSFORMING ONE DAY INTO AN 8-WEEK PROGRAM.

Five years ago, we adopted a new strategic initiative based on a trend we were seeing develop across Montana and the Flathead Valley. Manufacturing had been a constant economic powerhouse in the area for decades, but a transition was happening, and it was big. The dominating presence of large manufacturing firms was quickly giving way to smaller, high-tech, more specialized companies, and they were moving in fast. Flathead County is now home to more than 500 unique manufacturers who make everything from firearms to building materials, food and pharmaceuticals to machinery, and all products in between.

Manufacturing wages are consistently about 17% higher than the national average as well as those here in Montana, however as we've seen the industry boom, there's been a constant conversation about the lack of skilled labor, and even more, the predicted lack of labor available in the near future. Across the nation, there will be an estimated 3 million new manufacturing jobs available in the next decade, however, it is expected that more than 2 million of those will go unfilled. With the potential for increased wages, coupled with the incredible number of job openings and a rapidly growing industry, we decided to make manufacturing our focus each fall. Starting with events on just National Manufacturing Day 2013, where community members, like you, could get inside and tour manufacturing facilities, this program has now blossomed into more than eight weeks of programs, tours, seminars, and more.

Education and workforce development are at the heart of much of what we do, so we've created continuing education days for teachers and counselors to learn how to inspire and excite students about pursuing careers in manufacturing. We've set up full and half-day field-trips for students to get inside facilities and see just what they do. Our focus this year is to showcase the 'many faces of manufacturing' and how any career path can have its home in the manufacturing industry. Join our kickoff luncheon on Sept 18th and follow along with us this fall!

#### Floor Manufacturing & Warehouse Roles:

- Assembly & Fabrication (entry level, no experience/college degree needed, starting wage \$11/hr)
- Forklift Operator
- Millwright
- Printing/Publishing (starting wage \$13/hr or more DOE)
- Quality Assurance
- Shipping/Receiving



#### Professional & Management Level Roles:

- Accounting
- Business Operations Manager
- Buyer
- CEO, COO, CFO, CMO
- Compliance Officer
- Controller
- Engineer
- Graphic Designer
- Human Resource Manager
- Marketing
- Master Production Technician
- Operations Analyst
- Operations Supervisor
- Outside Sales
- Project Engineer
- Purchasing (starting wage, \$16+/hr)
- Quality Assurance Analyst (starting wage, \$16+/hr)
- Sales



### SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON: HOW TO MAKE INTERNSHIPS AND APPRENTICESHIPS WORK FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Tuesday, September 18 | 11:45am - 1:15pm | Red Lion Hotel, Kalispell | \$20 per person

Join us as we kick off Flathead Manufacturing Month with a panel discussion from area manufacturing and technology companies who have successfully implemented internship and apprenticeships to help grow their workforce pool. **To register, click here, or connect with us at [info@kalispellchamber.com](mailto:info@kalispellchamber.com) or (406) 758-2803.**

## CHAMBER DELEGATION GOING TO D.C. TO PUSH FOR BYPASS FUNDING

A delegation of 14 business and civic officials will fly-in to Washington, D.C. September 4-6 to meet with our delegation and other officials in an effort to secure \$15 million of funding to widen the south-half of the Bypass. Completing the full-build of the Bypass is a high priority of our strategic plan. We will also press for other strategic priorities including national parks infrastructure, forest management provisions of the ag bill, FAA reauthorization, and an infrastructure bill. For agenda and attendee information, click [here](#).

## AIRPORT PASSENGER COUNTS POST IMPRESSIVE GAINS

Airline passenger counts are +16% YTD, the highest of any airport in the state. Rob Ratkowski, the airport director, attributes this gain to 1) new daily direct summer service to LAX on United, 2) larger equipment, and 3) good performance in all months, including the spring shoulder season. Rob will present information on Glacier Park International Airport's future terminal expansion plans at our October luncheon.

## PRELIMINARY DOWNTOWN TRAIL PLANS UNVEILED

Trail consultants have circulated preliminary design plans for the downtown trail. These design plans will also be presented at our October luncheon.



## SILVER LINING SEPTEMBER FLING

Thursday, September 6 | 6:00pm | Rebecca Farm | \$25

Silver Lining, Montana's first breast cancer survivor club team, invites you to a kickoff party preceding the Montana Dragon Boat Festival. The star of the evening will be celebrity guest, Dr. Don MacKenzie, a world-renowned sports physician who had the vision to introduce dragon boating as a post-breast cancer treatment. Thanks to Dr. MacKenzie, more than 200 breast cancer survivor teams are competing worldwide. The event takes place at Rebecca Farm and proceeds benefit Silver Lining's dragon boat program. Tickets are \$25. [Click here for more information and online ticket purchase.](#)

## MONTANA DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

September 8-9 | Volunteer Park in Lakeside | FREE

The competition will be fierce as teams of 22-paddlers from across North America skim across the water in 40-foot-long dragon boats. The weekend schedule is packed with live music, entertainment, kids' activities and the world's first paddle board boxing tournament. There will be multiple food vendors on site and a beer garden. Free admission and parking in designated lots. [Check out the schedule here.](#)

## FLATHEAD AREA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ESPRESSO YOURSELF: DEVELOPING A MINDSET TO ENHANCE SUCCESS

September 12 | 8:00 - 9:00am | Kalispell Chamber | FREE

Join FAYP and dive into a few of the key concepts for developing the mental skills to thrive in today's dynamic personal and professional environments. Kyler Kercher, who began writing about leadership, human performance, and sports psychology in 2015, will be leading this discussion. The founder of Athletic Edge Sports Consulting, Kyle has found fascinating connections between the concepts that help student-athletes succeed and the ones that create the most successful young professionals. [Follow FAYP on Facebook for more events like these.](#)

## THINKING THURSDAY: PUTTING YOUR RETIREMENT INTO FOCUS

Thursday, September 20 | 8:30 - 10:00am | Kalispell Chamber | FREE

Certified Financial Planner, Jacob Turley, of American Financial Services, Inc., will help you put your retirement into focus in this fun and engaging seminar. This learning session will take a holistic approach by answering such questions as, "how will I get an ice cream cone?" Retirement is more than financially preparing (although he will touch on that, too) and after this seminar you will leave with the tools to help you start putting your retirement puzzle together. [Connect with American Financial Services, Inc. on Facebook.](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

## TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT OVERVIEW

Tuesday, September 25 | 3:00-5:00pm | Hilton Garden Inn | FREE

This presentation, featuring Jake Carter, Senior Tax Manager with JCCS, will give an overview of the new tax law and how this affects both businesses and individuals.

Jake Carter is a Senior Tax Manager with JCCS. As a public accountant, while he primarily works with small businesses and individuals, he also specializes in international taxation. Originally from Missoula, Jake moved to the Flathead Valley in 2013 and looks to continue his career here in our area by helping local businesses and members of our community with their accounting and financial needs. Jake will give us a general overview of the new tax laws that were passed in late-2017 under the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act and explain how these changes will potentially impact you and/or your business.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

## SEN. DAINES TO HOST MANUFACTURING SUMMIT NOV 8-9

The 2018 Montana Manufacturing Jobs Summit will bring together manufacturing leaders from around the country to continue the conversation around manufacturing in Montana and how to further develop the state's fastest growing economic sector. Together we will work together to find new ways to grow manufacturing jobs, showcase technology, explore and open new exporting markets. The summit will feature the CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers with a keynote address. Montana is the fastest growing state for manufacturing GDP in the nation with \$3.2 billion in manufacturing GDP in 2016 – a \$1.2 billion increase from 2011. [To register for this exciting opportunity, click here.](#)

## IN THE NEWS



*Kalispell Welcomes First New Elementary School in Three Decades, Flathead Beacon*

*Kalispell Residents Get First Look at Finished Rankin Elementary, NBC Montana*

*Kalispell Visitors Bureau Hands off Dragon Boats, Cancels Pond Hockey, Flathead Beacon*

*Fair's Livestock Auction Tops Half Million Again!, Daily Inter Lake*

*McAlpin Follows Long Line of Fair Supporters, Daily Inter Lake*

*Market Livestock Sale Teaches Values, Responsibility, Daily Inter Lake*

*Swine Job is Hog Heaven for Lower Valley Farmer, Daily Inter Lake*

*Sheep Baaa-ttle Kicks Off Fair, Daily Inter Lake*

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Click each for more information

**SEPT 11**  
**UNWIND with Central Heating, Plumbing, Cooling, and Electrical**  
5:00 - 6:30pm | 1650 MT HWY 35

**SEPT 12**  
**FAYP Espresso Yourself: Developing a Mindset to Enhance Success**  
8:00 - 9:00am | Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

**SEPT 12**  
**Ribbon Cutting at North Forty Resort**  
6:00pm | 3765 MT HWY 40

**SEPT 12 & 13**  
**How to Reduce Income and Estate Taxes on your IRA, 401(k) and Pension**  
11:00am - 1:00pm | Missoula and Polson locations. Click for more information

**SEPT 18**  
**September Luncheon: Making Internships and Apprenticeships Work for Your Business**  
11:45am - 1:15pm | Red Lion Hotel, Kalispell

**SEPT 20**  
**Thinking Thursday: Putting Your Retirement Into Focus**  
8:30 - 10:00am | Kalispell Chamber

**SEPT 25**  
**Tax Cuts & Jobs Act Overview**  
3:00 - 5:00pm | Hilton Garden Inn

**SEPT 26**  
**From the Alps to the Adriatic in 2019, Informational Meeting**  
5:30 - 6:30pm | Kalispell Chamber

**SEPT 27**  
**Ribbon Cutting at Mountain Lake Mortgage**  
5:00pm | 1830 3rd Ave E #201

Have an event coming up? Make sure to post it on our website!

## SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

Thank you for signing up with the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce in September! We appreciate your commitment to our organization and advancing the Flathead Valley business community.

### 30+ YEARS

- Evergreen Disposal
- Glacier Jet Center
- LC Staffing
- Wakefield's Beauty Connection

### 20 YEARS

- Re/Max Glacier Country
- Airworks, Inc
- R Gunlickson & Associates
- Northwest Cabinet Works

### 10 YEARS

- Moore Hearing, PC

### 5 YEARS

- Big Sky Lawn & Landscaping

### 1 YEAR

- A Ray of Hope
- Asphalt Doctor
- Montana Custom Quilts, Inc
- PoP Social Media Marketing
- Big Mountain Ciderworks
- Biz to Biz Network, Inc
- Brooklyn Rolls
- PCA Architects PC
- Cedar Creek Lodge & Convention Center



**KALISPELL CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING!**

**CELEBRATING OUR NEW OFFICE LOCATION!**

**MOUNTAIN LAKE MORTGAGE**

**Thursday, September 27th, 4-6 PM**

**JOIN US FOR A BACON & CHOCOLATE THEMED EVENT... NEED WE SAY MORE???**

Southfield Tower (Clock Tower) 1830 3rd Ave. East  
406-751-2350 • MountainLakeMortgage.com

## CALLING ALL EDUCATORS!

### WE WANT TO HELP YOU S.T.E.P. UP YOUR CLASSROOM

Thursday, October 18 • 8:00am-5:00pm  
Flathead Valley Community College, OT 111  
Breakfast and lunch provided  
8 PIR Credits Available

Are you a teacher or counselor who wants to engage your students in STEM fields and inspire them to pursue related careers? Join us for a continuing-education day where we turn STEM into STEP – science, technology, engineering, and production.

We're partnering with industry experts to share the most up-to-date tools to give your students a leg up in manufacturing related education and careers, arm you with a variety of hands-on exercises to teach basic manufacturing principles in the classroom, and dive into how modern manufacturing has changed the industry. Additionally, get a first-hand look inside two manufacturing companies right here in the Flathead on our facility tours.

With an expected 3 million available manufacturing jobs nationally over the next few years, and 17% higher starting wages than the Montana average, it's time to start rethinking these high-paying, high-tech, clean, safe, and impactful careers.

Sign up via PIR.net or contact Kate Lufkin at the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce at (406) 758-2801

**Attention: Execs, Professionals & Business Professionals...**

**You are invited to a FREE Private Briefing:**



**How to Reduce Income and Estate Taxes on your IRA, 401(k) and Pension**

**September 12th**

\*All Times are Mountain Time (MT)\*

**Lunch : 11am-1pm**

\*\*Polson Location

**Dinner: 5pm-8pm**

Missoula Location

**September 13th**

\*All Times are Mountain Time (MT)\*

**Lunch : 11am-1pm**

Kalispell Location

**Dinner: 5pm-8pm**

\*\*Polson Location

**Call (406)221-3607 to register**

## Exciting World Music Orchestra!

**VICO**

**VANCOUVER INTER-CULTURAL ORCHESTRA**

**Sept. 22 & 23  
Kalispell**



**GLACIER SYMPHONY**  
ORCHESTRA and CHORALE

406.407.7000

glaciersymphony.org



## FROM THE ALPS TO THE ADRIATIC ITALY • SLOVENIA • CROATIA

**APRIL 1-9, 2019**

**\$3,199 per person**

9 days, 7 nights, including airfare from Kalispell, hotels, meals, and day trips

From the enchanting Adriatic coastline, to silver lakes and Alpine peaks, medieval castles, and Italian inspired architecture, our tour uncovers the wealth of natural beauty and cultural history of Slovenia.

Away from big crowds, you will experience an unusual and engaging cultural blend of some of Europe's least-discovered landscapes and towns. In addition to Slovenia, visit Croatia, and explore a Tuscan-like Istrian peninsula crammed with hill-top villages and rolling hills of vineyards and olive groves. Explore these hidden gems of Europe from the luxurious Kempinski Palace Hotel, which will be your home for five nights, and conclude your journey with a two-night stay in ever so magical Venice.

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