CHAMBER CHAT

February 2024

What I'm Thinking About

By Andy Mayer President/CEO

In the interest of keeping you informed and with a nod to Kris Johnson, Association of Washington Business, President & CEO, and his "Friday Five," my article is changing to short paragraphs, on various things relating to the Chamber. Here goes:

- 1. The Economy: How is the economy doing and how does it relate to your business? There are two opportunities this month for you to hear perspectives on the topic. At our Luncheon on February 28, the previously mentioned Kris Johnson will speak on the "State of the Economy". Kris' deep knowledge of Washington businesses, and how the economic forces affect us, always make his presentations interesting and useful. To expand your knowledge further, EDASC's Economic Forecast Night on the 15th will explore economic and business trends, and how they relate to economic development.
- 2. 2024 Washington Legislative Session: In whirlwind fashion, the Legislature is considering a myriad of new laws. Of note are the companion bills on gift cards, SB5988/HB2095, which would require unused gift cards to go to the state as unclaimed property. The related bills SB5987/HB2094, which would have made it so that up to \$50 remaining on gift cards could be cashed out, have fortunately been killed. For updates on what's happening in Olympia, check out Legislative Session "Top News" and "Legislation of Note" from AWB. They can be seen on our website. We appreciate being able to share the information with you, without necessarily endorsing the opinions expressed.

Continued on page 3



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce (360) 428-8547

mountvernonchamber.com

2024 Sponsorship Opportunities

Is part of your New Year's resolution to increase your marketing presence or support of the Chamber? Now is the time to act on marketing and sponsorship opportunities. The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce has the following opportunities available: Monthly Luncheons, Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off, Riverwalk Summer Concert Series, Skagit Beer & Wine Festival, Your Chamber This Week Sponsorships, Newsletter Inserts, and Newsletter Ads. These are a great way to increase exposure with fellow Chamber members and the community at large, and the Chamber makes it easy to participate. See the marketing opportunity insert in this newsletter for details on each sponsorship, as well as other opportunities available with the Chamber.

Contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director to reserve your chance to gain exposure at (360) 428-8547 or <u>Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com</u>.

Welcome New Members

Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship

Victor Ponce (206) 657-6950

www.cie-nw.org

1111 Cleveland Street Ste 105

Mount Vernon

Nonprofit microenterprise development organization.

Financial Horizons, PLLC

Mark Sabo

(206) 714-6200

www.financial-horizons.biz

720 S Main Street Ste 207

Mount Vernon

As an Strategic Advisor to Business Owners, Mark Sabo offers professional consulting services including business taxes, business valuations, business growth strategies, business plans systems and efficiencies and turn-around management.

Congratulations 2023 Annual Awards Recipients!



Chairman Award: Mayor Jill Boudreau, <u>City of Mount Vernon</u>



Business of the Year: <u>Boys &</u> <u>Girls Clubs of Skagit County</u>



FINANCIAL HORIZONS

Business Person of the Year: Nikki Wegner, <u>Chinook Enterprises</u> (pictured is David Wilder)



Making a Difference Award: Sylvia Alvarez, Triumph Teen Life Center



Rising Star:

<u>Betsy Anorbe Real Estate</u>



Ambassador of the Year: Jaime Huss, Washington Federal

What I'm Thinking About Continued from page 1

- 3. Generations in the Workplace: I've been thinking about how the different generations behave differently at work and participate in civic affairs, including the Chamber. With five generations in the workforce currently, that's a lot to manage at your company and for the Chamber to serve. Preferences in how to communicate and how to serve the community and the world have changed tremendously in the last few decades. Having been with Chambers over that span, I know what we've done. I'm more interested in what we should do--with (and for) the emerging Generation Z. Let's work on it together.
- 4. Multi-Chamber After Hours at White Branches: This event on February 8, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., is not to be missed. White Branches is a tea house by day and something like a visit to Alice in Wonderland at night. Trust me—it's an interesting and fun place! To top it off, catering will be provided by downstairs neighbor, Il Granaio.

Have a good and productive month, with a bit of fun along the way! Andy

Thank You Renewing Members

25+ Years

Shawn O'Donnell's at the Farmhouse

20+ Years

Cascades Job Corps

15+ Years

Children's Museum of Skagit County Copy & Print Store Youthnet

10+ Years

Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County Natural Way Chiropractic and Massage Skagit Tradition Realty Thousand Trails Mount Vernon

5+ Years

Northwest Youth Services

Less than 5 Years

Mr T's Family Cafe Mutual of Omaha Reverse Mortgage



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR AMBASSADOR TEAM?







For information:

Silvia Reed

(360) 395-2944

Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com



Partner Members

Allstate - Mayra Nava Agency, Barron Smith Daugert, PLLC, Bank of the Pacific, Best Western PLUS, Skagit Valley Inn, Birch Equipment Co., Budget Towing & Repair, Coastal Farm & Ranch, Chikara PR, LLC, Costco Wholesale, D&P Electronic Home Monitoring, Farmers Insurance Tory Charette Agency, Foothills Toyota, Fortiphi, Haggen Food & Pharmacy, Hampton Inn & Suites, Infinity Painting & Renovations, Kern Funeral Home, Landed Gentry Homes & Communities, Loving Farms, Max Dale's Steak and Chop House, Mount Vernon School District, North Coast Credit Union, Northwest Escrow, LLC, Pacific Premier Bank, PogoZone, Port of Skagit, Puget Sound Energy, Sara Fish Group - Keller Williams Western Realty, SERVPRO, Skagit Public Utility District 1, Skagit Valley Casino Resort, Skagit Valley College, Skagit Regional Health, Skagit Valley Food Co-op, Tacos Tecalitlan, Testing and Commissioning Services, LLC, Walmart, WECU, White Branches,

Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs

Calendar of Events

Multi-Chamber After Hours at White Branches and Il Granaio Inc.

Thursday, February 8 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. 100 E Montgomery St Suite 210 Mount Vernon

"Coffee Chat", A Speaking of Women Event

Powered by Viry Delgado, COA Mexican Eatery Wednesday February 14 at 9 a.m.

Pegasus Pie Co.

Register here

Speaking of Women registration includes 3 panels and 7 coffee chats





Funding and Business Expansion – Financiamiento y Expansion de su Negocio

A Latino Business Leaders Session

Presented by US Bank and the Center for Inclusive

Entrepreneurship
In Spanish

thrivent

Wednesday February 21 at 6 p.m.

Skagit Valley College, Multi-Purpose Room Register here



Membership Luncheon State of the Economy: Kris Johnson, President of the Association of Washington Business

Wednesday, February 28 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Hillcrest lodge Preregister: \$23 Day of: \$25

Catered by:

The Skagit Table Register here

Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off







Amateurs and professionals are invited to compete on Saturday, April 6, at Farmstrong Brewing Company for the title of Skagit's favorite chili and chowder. Cook-off attendees pick the winners by voting with their bowls. Interested in sponsoring the event? We have sponsorship levels available for every budget, which include opportunities through print and digital advertising as well as day-of-event visibility. For questions regarding the cook-off or sponsorships, contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director at (360) 428-8547 or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com. Find the sponsorship flyer, application to compete and the rules at the end of this newsletter. Good luck!

Photos from Hillary Parker - 2023 event.

Board of Directors

Chair - Flora Lucatero

Children of the Valley

Vice Chair - Tony White

Skagit Valley Food Co-op

Past Chair - Brian Ivie

Skagit Regional Health

Treasurer - Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Global Credit Union

Member at-large - Diane Fox

All About Hearing

Tony Cook

Cook CPAs and Consultants, PLLC

Viry Delgado

COA Mexican Eatery

Mike Distelhorst

Skagit Publishing

Matt Gill

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

Katie Hayton

La Conner Inn

Crystal King

NW Technology

Robert Knoll

Puget Sound Energy

Andrew Miller

Tulip Valley Farms

Julia Phillip

Julia Phillip Realty

Stacie J. Pratschner

City of Mount Vernon

Dr. Amanda Rentschler

Roosevelt Dental Center

Jon Ronngren

Mount Vernon School District

Dr. Chris Villa

Skagit Valley College

STAFF

Andy Mayer President/CEO

Silvia Reed Business Development and

Foundation Director

Jeremy Kindlund Operations Director

Bob Johnson & Julie Newkirk

Visitor Information Services

Chamber Chat Wednesday Mornings 8:05 a.m. 8:20 a.m.

Member Announcements

Empowering The Youth: Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County Addresses Mental Health Needs in Diverse Communities



In response to the critical need for mental and behavioral health support among children, especially in communities where English is a second language, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County is pioneering efforts to make a meaningful impact. With a particular focus on LaVenture Middle School, Mental Health Specialist, Yesica Solano and Site Coordinator, Marco Rivera are leading initiatives to provide vital assistance to students navigating their emotions and mental health.

2024 SWAN scholarships now available





For more member announcements, visit mountvernonchamber.com/member-announcements Send your announcements to Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com

January in Pictures



Andy Mayer moderates the Legislative Send-Off



Members network at the Multi-Chamber After Hours at Magnolia Comfort Food



Speaking of Women at La Catrina Tacos Tequila



Vision Board planning at Chamber Connections

Ambassadors

Chair - Betsy Anorbe
Betsy Anorbe Real Estate
Sylvia Alvarez
Triumph Teen Life Center
Emmy Bateman

Lincoln Theatre

Marla Chapa

Skagit Social **Joley Garner**

WAFD Insurance Group, Inc.

Jaime Huss

Washington Federal

Crystal King

NW Technology

Julia Phillip

Julia Phillip Realty

Blake Rawlins

Guardian Northwest Title &

Escrow

Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Global Credit Union
Chris Van De Grift

ReLuTy Real Estate

Clarissa Wong

CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC



Shop Local grand prize winner

BRONZE LEGACY







































































2024 MARKETING & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Membership Meeting Sponsor Includes your logo in the monthly Chamber Chat, weekly email, website event calendar, newsletter email to over 900 businesses, 5 minute presentation at the meeting, display table and exclusive right to distribute flyers on the tables.	\$300 (Act quickly because these go fast! Not available in November)	Exclusive Sponsor of "Your Chamber This Week" Email Your display ad or logo sent to over 900 email addresses each week with an active link to your website. We have a special rate for yearly sponsors.	\$100/week	
Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off A fantastic way to get exposure as Skagit County's best battle it out. This competition features both amateurs and professionals and is a sure fire hit with the crowd!	\$325-\$1,250 Sponsorships Available	Chamber Chat Newsletter Inserts You provide the PDF, we do the rest! Perfect for events, sales and announcements; sent to over 900 business professionals in the monthly Chamber Chat Newsletter.		
Riverwalk Summer Concert Series A family-friendly event on the Riverwalk in downtown Mount Vernon Concert Series featuring an eclectic mix of genres from talented local musicians. Sponsorships include radio promotion, social media, display table and option to announce your business during the concert.	\$350-\$5,000 Sponsorships Available	Chamber Chat Newsletter Ad Place your ad in the award-winning Chamber Chat newsletter and be seen every month. Reach out to fellow business leaders and potential customers with over 10,000 copies distributed annually.	\$700-\$1,500 Varies by Size	
Skagit Wine & Beer Festival The premier social event featuring regional wineries, breweries, distilleries, cideries and restaurants. Sponsorships include promotion in chamber marketing materials, radio advertisements and social media.	\$350-\$5,000 Sponsorships Available	MountVernonChamber.com Display Ads Extend your marketing reach to over 136,000 size an annual visitors on our website with your display ad linked directly to your website. Three sizes/ styles of display ads available.		
New Member Welcome Basket Be one of the first to introduce your business to new chamber members by providing your company swag or special offer, to be included in every welcome basket.	FREE Just supply us with your pro- motional items.	Door Prizes Keep your business name and brand in front of potential customers by donating a door prize during any one of our events.		

Company Name:	Contact:	
Phone:	Email:	

For more information contact Jeremy Kindlund - (360) 428-8547, or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com. Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce - PO BOX 1007 Mount Vernon, WA 98273, www.MountVernonChamber.com.



Sponsorship Opportunities Saturday, April 6 2024 at Farmstrong Brewing Company

Royal Sponsor:

\$1,250

Company logo on promotional poster

Company name on printed and digital marketing materials

Logo with a link to your website on MountVernonChamber.com

Social media promotion on all Chamber channels

Mentions in both the weekly and monthly Chamber newsletters

Display table at the cook-off

Special recognition during the event

Major Sponsor:

\$550

Company logo on poster

Company name on printed and digital marketing materials

Logo with a link to your website on MountVernonChamber.com

Social media promotion on all Chamber channels

Mentions in both the weekly and monthly Chamber newsletters

Special recognition during the event

Supporting Sponsor:

\$325

Company logo displayed on promotional poster

Company name on printed and digital marketing materials

Logo with a link to your website on MountVernonChamber.com

Promotion on Chamber Facebook page

Mentions in both the weekly and monthly Chamber newsletters

Special recognition during the event

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce PO Box 1007 Mount Vernon, WA 98273 (360) 428-8547 Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com





Toom Nome





Saturday, April 6, from 1pm to 4pm at Farmstrong Brewing Company

1st Place Professional Division - \$250 and an award plaque 2nd Place Professional Division - Entry Fee Refunded 1st Place Amateur Division - \$250 and an award plaque 2nd Place Amateur Division - Entry Fee Refunded Craft Stove Best of Show Award - Award plaque

ream Name:					
Team Captain:					
Address:					
City:					
Phone Number:					
Email:					
Yes, I will need electricity to prepare my chili/chowder					
No, I have a camp stove or propane to prepare and keep my product warm					
I am entering Chili and/or Chowder to the competition					
I will be competing as a Professional or Amateur					

Space is limited! Please fill out and return by Friday, March 15

Please send your completed form and \$25 entry fee to:

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

301 W Kincaid St.

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

For more information please contact Jeremy Kindlund at (360) 428-8547 or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com



The event is Saturday, April 6, from 1pm to 4pm.

Teams must submit an entry Form with a \$25 check to the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce by March 17 to reserve a spot.

Farmstrong Brewing Company will open at 10am on April 6 for set up and cooking.

Teams will be assigned a 10' x 10' preparation area. Bring your canopy, table, and everything you will need to prepare your chili/chowder and keep it warm.

Each team is responsible for all cooking utensils, tables, chairs, cooking ingredients, set up and clean up. Each team must supply all cooking equipment: propane camp stove, grills, etc. power will be available through generators.

Each competitor will be given spoons, napkins, 2-ounce taster cups and bowls to give attendees.

Teams are encouraged to decorate their area and themselves. The best decorated and costumed team will win \$100.

No chili can be pre-cooked or prepared prior to competition unless done at a commercial kitchen and transported according to Health Department guidelines.

Please keep chili and chowder tightly covered when not serving.

All ingredients must come from approved food sources, so it's safe for public consumption (No roadkill). For questions, contact the Skagit County Health Department (360) 416-1500.

Each participant will also need to bring a handwashing station with a continuous flow spout, soap, and paper towels.

Chili powder and other spices are fine and dandy, but complete commercial chili mixes are not permitted. Thickeners such as corn meal, masa or flour are allowed – so are canned tomatoes, chipotles and beans. NO prepackaged chili/chowder is allowed.

Attendees will be given six taster tickets and a vote ticket. The vote ticket will be for their favorite chili/chowder and they will receive a bowl in exchange for their vote.

Craft Stove will choose the Craft Stove Best of Show Award.

You can submit both a chili and a chowder for the one application.

The more chili you have, the more votes you can get –a minimum of 4 gallons is required.

Craft Stove Best of Show Award winner will also receive a plaque.

1st Place Professional Chowder – award plaque and \$250

2nd Place Professional Chowder - receive your entry fee back

1st Place Professional Chili - award plaque and \$250

2nd Place Professional Chili - receive your entry fee back

1st Place Amateur Chowder – award plague and \$250

2nd Place Amateur Chowder - receive your entry fee back

1st Place Amateur Chili - award plaque and \$250

2nd Place Amateur Chili - receive your entry fee back





JULIE BLAZEK
HKP ARCHITECTS



LESLIE SMITH EDCO Inc.

BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

A "SPEAKING OF WOMEN" EVENT

March 13th, 2024 - 4:30 PM The Grand Willow Inn

2024 SERIES \$180.00

Includes monthly coffee chats and panels:

- Breaking the Glass Ceiling (March)
- The "Why" behind the "What" (June)
- Climbing the Success Ladder (Sept.)





SPEAKING OF WOMEN Partnership Opportunities

"Speaking of Women" is a Mount Vernon Chamber program designed as an outlet for business women to connect with one another, empower each other and mentor upcoming business leaders.

Series Sponsor

\$2,000.00

(Up to 2 sponsors)

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo prominently displayed in series marketing (panels and coffee chats)
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak to the group at each Speaking of Women event
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants
- ⇒ 01 complimentary admission to 3 panels

Coffee Chat Sponsor

\$ 200.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo prominently displayed in coffee chat marketing
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak to the group at the coffee chat of your choice

2024 Schedule

Panels

March 13 4:30—6:00 PM Breaking the Glass Ceiling

June 12 4:30—6:00 PM The "Why" Behind the "What"

September 11 4:30—6:00 PM Climbing the Success Ladder

Coffee Chats at 9:00 AM

Jan. 10 Feb. 14 April 10 May 8 July 10 Aug. 14 Oct. 19 Nov. 13

Panels and Coffee Chats are held at various locations



Partnership Opportunities

Latino Business Leaders (LBL) is a Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Foundation program designed to facilitate the advancement and participation of Latino businesses through entrepreneurship training programs, networking, marketing and mentorship.

LBL Presenting Partner

\$2500.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in all LBL marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Company name in all radio announcements
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants at all sessions
- ⇒ Marketing table (or similar depending on space) at 3 socials

LBL Partner (3 sessions)

\$500.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in LBL marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants at 3 sessions

Latino Initiative Supporter

\$250.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants

LBL Social-Networking Event Supporter

\$250.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Marketing table at event (or similar depending on space)

LBL Session Supporter (1 session)

\$150.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in LBL marketing
- ⇒ Company logo on the event page and displayed during the sponsored session
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for session participants

2023-2024 Schedule

LBL Social-Networking Events

Held in August, December and April

Latino Initiatives

Special sessions designed to support the Latino community and based on specific community needs.

Entrepreneurship Training Program

Monthly training sessions held in Spanish. Designed for start ups and established Latino businesses.

For information contact Silvia Reed | Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com | (360) 395-2944



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