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# Media Release

## Billings Chamber/CVB Announces 2009 Roche Jaune Awards for Business Excellence Recipients

**For Immediate Release -**

**Billings, MT, November 11, 2009:** The Billings Chamber of Commerce/Convention and Visitors Bureau is pleased to announce the 2009 Roche Jaune Awards for Business Excellence recipients. The third annual Roche Jaune Awards will be held Thursday, November 19, 2009 at the Alberta Bair Theater in downtown Billings from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Three years ago, the Billings Chamber/CVB Board and staff saw the need for such a business and community awards event for Billings. Today, this premiere awards event recognizes the amazing residents, organizations and businesses that help improve the quality of life and business in Billings. Billings Chamber/CVB Community Relations Director Alex Tyson says, "Rarely are there opportunities to recognize the great people who help make Montana's Trailhead such an ideal place to live, work and play." Tyson adds, "The Roche Jaune Awards are a chance to show gratitude for the contribution and commitment residents make to Billings.

The Billings Chamber/CVB begins accepting nominations for the Roche Jaune Awards in August. Once the nomination deadline passes, a committee of Chamber/CVB members goes through the nominations for all thirteen categories. All names and elusions to the person or business nominated are blacked-out prior to the judging process so the method is fair. In order to be nominated or a named a recipient, a nominee does not have to be a member of the Billings Chamber/CVB. New this year is the Agriculture Excellence category. After two years of hosting this program, the Billings Chamber/CVB felt this was one category that was missing with regards to a critical industry to Billings' business.

**[The 2009 Roche Jaune Awards for Business Excellence Recipients:](#)**

*Additional information on each recipient is available on request.*

**Lifetime Achievement:**

Don & Marilyn Floberg  
Prudential Floberg Realtors

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**Civic Leadership Excellence:**

Billings Police Department

**Business Person of the Year:**

Mike Schaer, Computers Unlimited

**Education Excellence:**

Don Gleason, West High School

**Health Care Excellence:**

St. Vincent Healthcare's  
Northern Rockies Radiation Oncology Center

**Agriculture Excellence:**

Butch Bratsky  
Stockman Bank

**Salesperson Excellence:**

Lee Humphrey  
Edward Jones

**Customer Service Excellence:**

Front Desk Staff  
Boothill Inn & Suites

**Tourism Excellence:**

Western Romance Company

**Employer of the Year:**

Whitewood Transport

**Supervisor/Manager of the Year:**

Mark Dawson  
Century 21 Hometown Brokers

**Volunteer of the Year:**

***Adult:***

Dr. Steven Butler & Mrs. Lucinda Butler  
The Rimrock Opera Company

***Youth:***

Damon Wanchena  
The Billings Clinic

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So many people in this area are unnoticed or unrecognized for doing great things and they are the people the Roche Jaune Awards aims to acknowledge annually.

What does Roche Jaune (row-sh shwan) mean? The word originated with the Minnetaree Indians. They used it as an expression for the Yellowstone River. Roche Jaune means Yellow Rock River. When the French Trappers and the members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition came in to contact with the Minnetaree Indians in 1805, they too began to call the Yellowstone River by that name. The 2007 Chamber/CVB awards committee felt this was a perfect name to use for such an important event. Thus, the Roche Jaune Awards for Business Excellence was born.



**Events Details:**

Thursday, November 19, 2009  
Alberta Bair Theater, downtown Billings  
6:30 p.m. – cocktails & Hors'd oeuvres  
7:30 p.m. – Awards Ceremony begins  
Emcee – Rob Griggs  
Tickets: \$25/person

Purchase tickets: 245-4111, [info@billingschamber.com](mailto:info@billingschamber.com), [www.billingschamber.com](http://www.billingschamber.com)

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*“Our Vision is to achieve excellence in community leadership and growth.”*

*“Our Mission is to develop a strong business climate and vibrant economy by serving the community in a leadership role thereby enhancing the quality of life.”*

**“Billings is Changing. Your Chamber is Leading the Way.”**



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