

## BUSINESS

# D&M Coffee named Business of the Year

## *Economic Development Group honors businesses*

By TRAVIS HAY staff writer

Ellensburg-based D&M Coffee was named the Kittitas County Business of the Year by the county's economic development group earlier this week.



Photo by Joe Whiteside/ Daily Record

Debbie Strand, right center, presents the Kittitas Valley Business of the Year award to D&M Coffee owners Donna Malek and Mark Holloway, left center, and their employees Tuesday evening.

### Winners are:

Kittitas County Business  
of the Year winners by  
location

**Overall** – D&M Coffee

**Roslyn** – Roslyn Café

**Cle Elum and South**

**Cle Elum** – Cle Elum Hardware

**Ellensburg** – D&M Coffee

**Kittitas** – Reg's Heating & Cooling

**Unincorporated Kittitas**

**County** – Thorp Fruit & Antique Mall

The award was one of six given by the group at its inaugural awards ceremony, which was held Tuesday at Central Washington University's Student Union Ballroom.

"We feel very proud of this achievement," said D&M owner Donna Malek. "We're really excited about it and it's nice that the community is doing something like these awards to promote small businesses."

The awards were established to recognize outstanding businesses in the county that demonstrate stability, innovation, commitment to community and have had a positive economic impact on Kittitas County. Nominations were solicited throughout this month and April. Five of the six awards were based on the business' main location. Out of the five awards, an overall business of the year for the county was selected.

"I really hope these awards encourage small business to develop and give back to the community," said Malek. "D&M couldn't be the business it is now without the help and support of the community."

Malek, along with Mark Holloway, started D&M in 1990 in a small, egg-shaped trailer located across from Central Washington University. More than 15 years later that trailer has evolved into four locations that employ 42 people and D & M's roasted coffee is shipped nationwide.

"Our organization feels that it is very important that we honor outstanding local businesses," said Debbie Strand, executive director of the Economic Development Group in a press release. "Public recognition of their excellence in the marketplace will acknowledge their importance to our community."

"All too often we fail to honor our outstanding local businesses. All of the award winners are very deserving and set a benchmark for other businesses to reach. We are fortunate to have businesses such as these in our community," said Strand.

To be eligible for the award, nominees must have been in business for at least three years, be physically located in the county and not be affiliated with board members of the county's economic development group.

The winners by geographic location were: The Roslyn Cafe, Roslyn; Cle Elum Hardware, Cle Elum; Reg's Heating & Cooling, Kittitas; Thorp Fruit & Antique Mall, unincorporated Kittitas County; D & M Coffee, Ellensburg.