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**EconomicDevelopmentGroup**  
of Kittitas County

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 14, 2007

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### **Kittitas County Business of the Year Award Winners Announced**

ELLENSBURG, WA – March 23, 2007 – The Economic Development Group of Kittitas County is pleased to announce this year’s Kittitas County Business of the Award winners by geographic location are: Village Pizza, Roslyn; Shoemaker Manufacturing, Cle Elum/South Cle Elum; Sure Shot Gun & Pawn, Kittitas; Jerrol’s Book & Supply Company, Ellensburg; and Knudson Lumber Company, for unincorporated Kittitas County.

A total of six awards are presented annually. Five of the awards are given based on the main business location: Cle Elum / South Cle Elum, Roslyn, Kittitas, Ellensburg and unincorporated Kittitas County. A sixth award for overall Kittitas County Business of the Year will be announced later this month at the Awards Ceremony being held this year in the Upper County at the Upper Kittitas County Centennial Center in Cle Elum.

The Keynote Speaker for this year’s event will be Bob Drewel, Executive Director of the Puget Sound Regional Council. The Puget Sound Regional Council is the long-range transportation, growth and economic planning organization for the four-county central Puget Sound region comprised of King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

The purpose of the Kittitas County Business of the Year Awards is to recognize outstanding businesses throughout Kittitas County that demonstrate stability, innovation, commitment to community, and have had a positive economic impact on the county.

Debbie Strand, Executive Director of the Economic Development Group commented, “Our organization feels that it is very important to honor outstanding businesses throughout Kittitas County. Public recognition of their excellence in the marketplace and dedication to the community acknowledges their importance to our community.”

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Nominations were received from throughout Kittitas County from January through February. To be eligible for the award, nominees must have been in business for at least three years, be physically located within Kittitas County and not be affiliated with (through ownership or employment) the Board members of the Economic Development Group of Kittitas County.

“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. “Congratulations to all of the great businesses that were nominated and to those selected as Kittitas County Business of the Year for their area.”

The Economic Development Group’s mission is to provide leadership that stimulates business and promotes economic opportunities to support the needs of Kittitas County. The focus of the organization is on activities associated with business recruitment, retention and expansion.

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Village Pizza  
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Shoemaker Manufacturing  
Richard Low, President  
Phone: 509-674-5923

Sure Shot Guns & Pawn  
Todd & Melody Lopeman, Owners  
Phone: 509-968-4867

Jerrol’s Book & Supply Company  
Rolf Williams, Owner  
Phone: 509-925-9851

Knudson Lumber  
Kari Shelley, Manager  
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