

**Articles:**

- Richland Airport
- Balloon Rally
- Tenant Spotlight
- Stone Soup Kitchen



The Re Port of Benton

Richland Airport Hangar Expansion



Granite NW has the contract to relocate taxiway B, shown above, and to build taxi lanes and long-term apron expansion at the Richland Airport.

Phase I construction has started on the Richland Airport Hangar Expansion project. The first phase includes relocating taxiway B to meet Federal Aviation Administration requirements and to provide easy access to the new hangars. Two additional taxi lanes and a long term tie down apron will also be completed in Phase I. Several hangar plots will be available in Phase I, including space for large and small planes.

The long-term plan will include seven phases to develop an additional seventy-five hangar plots at the airport. If you would like to reserve a space for your hangar, and a new home for your plane, please contact:

John Haakenson
Director of Airports & Operations
(509) 375-3060

Public Tours



The USS Triton Sail Park is a favorite spot for civic groups to tour.

If you are a civic group looking for places to tour, the Port of Benton is always ready to showcase the ten sites it manages.

Richland sites include the USS Triton Sail Park shown above which is within the Port's Technology & Business Park, plus the Richland Airport, Richland Innovation Center, and the Manufacturing Mall.

Benton City sites include the Benton City Industrial Park plus two buildings in the downtown area.

Prosser sites include the Prosser Wine & Food Park, home to seven wineries, a cold storage facility and Tree Top food

Continued on page 2

B Reactor Tours

In 1939 Albert Einstein warned President Franklin Roosevelt that the German scientists could be producing an atomic weapon. Roosevelt approved the Manhattan Project in 1942. Hanford was selected as the site for plutonium production in 1943 and 18 months later B Reactor became the first working production reactor in the world.

B Reactor was so top secret only a handful of workers knew its mission. The site has been preserved, decommissioned and is now a permanent piece of U.S. history.

The control room, core, instruments and tools are all on display. Tour leaders are on hand to explain how the plant functioned and where Enrico Fermi was standing when he calculated the timing of the first reaction. Busses are on hand to transport you to the B Reactor site, all you need to do is call and schedule a tour of the first production reactor in the world.



**For more information call
Russ Fabre:
(509) 376-1647**

Tour leaders are explaining how fuel was loaded into this horizontal core pictured above. They are on hand to inform visitors how the fission process works and how the timing of B Reactor was critical and pivotal in winning World War II.

Port of Benton Tours, Continued from page 1

processing facility. Other Prosser sites include the Prosser Airport, Walter Clore Wine & Culinary Center and Prosser Vintner's Village, home to ten wineries, Seven Gables Pensione and Yellow Rose Nursery.

Your group can tour one site, all ten sites or a combination. Please call so we can design a tour to fit your interests.

**To schedule a tour,
call Kelly at:
(509) 375-3060**



Lou & Teresa Gannon, owners of Yellow Rose Nursery, are taking a break at Wine o'Clock in Vintner's Village, one of our most popular sites to tour.

Crow Butte Park

If you didn't make it to Crow Butte Park this summer, you still have time! We're open until October 30th this fall. It's quiet with the kids back in school. It's cooler with more than 17 acres of grass and trees...and the fish are biting!

If you have a large group you'll be pleased to know the Port has a new, modern outdoor privy in the group camping section.

Crow Butte Park is managed by the Port of Benton, so if you're frustrated with the State's new Discover Pass rules, you can enjoy the park without a pass.

If all you need is a day of relaxation come enjoy the Day Use section of the park, launch your boat for Steelhead, Walleye or Bass fishing, bring your binoculars for close up views of birds

**Discover Crow Butte Park
without a Discover Pass!**

**Crow Butte Park is
managed by the Port of
Benton, no Discover
Pass required.**



This young bicyclist is enjoying one of many paved trails through the park.

and animals, or bring your hiking boots for a trek over the butte to the sandy beaches below.

Reservations can be made on-line at:
www.crowbutte.com

New Port Headquarters

The Port of Benton recently purchased a 24,000 square foot building located on Port of Benton Boulevard, a block north of their present corporate headquarters building.

When the Port vacates its current premises space will be available for tenants to easily expand into needed lab and high bay areas.

The economics of the transaction is saving money and expanding existing businesses. Current tenants can expand their operations and the Port is saving about 500% over the cost to build a brand new building. It's a big win for taxpayers and it is beneficial to the companies expanding and hiring more people in our community.



The Port of Benton purchased this building in north Richland for their new corporate headquarters. This purchase will stimulate more growth in our community and save tax payers more than a million dollars.

Commission meetings are open to the public and held the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Port of Benton Conference Room, 3100 George Washington Way, Richland, WA. March and September Commission meetings are held at the Vineyard Pavilion in Prosser, Washington.

Milbrandt Vineyards

Tenant
Spotlight

Editor's Note: I interviewed Butch Milbrandt at our corporate headquarters on August 29th.

Editor: When did you & Jerry go into the farming business?

Butch: We started growing alfalfa hay in the Quincy area in 1969. In 1997 we started growing wine grapes which is when we decided this is what we're good at, it's exciting, this is what we're doing from now on.

Editor: Who did you sell the grapes to?

Butch: It all started with St. Michelle, but now we're suppliers to about 50 different wineries.

Editor: And then you built a production facility in Mattawa?

Butch: Yes, and I think it's the growth over the years that's the most exciting for me. We went from being farmers to selling grapes to making our own wine label to domestic sales and now we're traveling internationally to market our products.

Editor: How much wine do you produce?

Butch: We'll make about 450,000 cases this year.

Editor: Wow, that's a lot of wine, how much of that is under the Milbrandt label?

Butch: We bottle about 60,000 cases under Milbrandt and the rest goes to other wineries. They put their effort and resources into sales instead of planting vineyards and building production facilities.

Editor: How much control do they have over the entire process?

Butch: They have total control from growing the grapes, harvesting, blending, aging; they have total control over the whole process.

Editor: Then you bottle their wine and put their label on the bottles?

Butch: Yes we do everything so when they back a truck up to our production facility we move pallets of their wine all ready for market. The best part is that small



Jerry (on the left) and Butch Milbrandt are producing some of the best wines in the state with a tasting room located at the Port's Prosser Vintner's Village.

wineries can get into the market and expand their operations without the significant costs of vineyards and production facilities.

Editor: How many acres of grapes do you grow and how many people does it take to produce that much wine?

Butch: We've got about 2,300 acres and about 60 full time workers in the fields and production facilities. We'll double that number when we get into the harvest season.

Editor: I'm assuming you didn't start out making 60,000 cases of wine.

Butch: No, but from 2007 we've been increasing our label production by about 20% per year. And this year we're actually increasing our brand sales by 40%.

Editor: Are you increasing that much on speculation, or do you have contracts for that much more wine?

Butch: We make the wine based on contracts. When we first started we brought grapes in from growers who didn't have homes for them and then over the years we developed more relationships and the contracts followed. We are buying fruit from about 30 other growers and we blend that juice with ours to produce about 1.6 million gallons of wine and every gallon is pre-contracted.

Editor: What are some of the more significant awards you've achieved?

Butch: In this industry it's all about

the scores you receive from the wine magazines. One of our latest was a 92+ on our flagship Sentinel label which is a single vineyard blend.

Editor: You're tasting room is at the Port's Prosser Vintner's Village, what do you offer at your facilities?

Butch: We have a state of the art tasting room serving our Milbrandt labels, plus we have space for corporate meetings and events.

Editor: How many can you seat?

Butch: We can seat up to 30 people and we have our own chef and commercial kitchen to provide the food. We serve lunch May through October, Friday through Sunday. We also have patio parties, dinner parties, vineyard tours and other special functions like barrel tasting and crush; but you need to check out our web site to find the dates.

Editor: Congratulations to you and Jerry on your phenomenal success.

Butch: We couldn't have achieved this level of success without the Port's help.

Editor: How can people get your wine?

Butch: You can find our wine at supermarkets, restaurants, wine shops and, of course, at our tasting room or on line through our web site:

Milbrandt Vineyards
(509) 788-0030
www.milbrandtvineyards.com

Great Prosser Balloon Rally

This year's Great Prosser Balloon Rally is being held on September 28 – 29 – 30th. This will be the 23rd annual balloon rally with 25 northwest pilots participating.

Scheduled events include a launch at sunrise each day from the Port's Prosser Airport (weather permitting), a street dance Friday evening and a night glow Saturday evening with Bram Brata & OK2Botay steel drum bands furnishing the music.

Balloonist Prayer

*May the wind welcome you with softness.
May the sun bless you with his warm hands.
May you fly so high and so well,
God joins you in your laughter.
And may he set you gently back again,
Into the loving arms of Mother Earth.*

Please note: The Great Prosser Balloon Rally does not sell balloon rides or release pilot contact information.

**For more information go to this web site:
www.prosserballoonrally.org**



Last year's Great Prosser Balloon Rally had perfect weather with many balloons performing a 'splash n dash' in the Yakima River.

Stone Soup Espresso & Deli

Stone Soup is located in the 2355 Stevens Drive building at the Port's Manufacturing Mall in north Richland. They are open Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and offer a good assortment of breakfast and lunch meals.

If you're rolling into work on empty, they have breakfast burritos, ham, egg and cheese croissants, as well as the standard assortment of muffins, yogurt, fruit, coffee, cappuccino, latte's and teas.

A sandwich bar is stocked with a various assortment of meat, cheese and bread. The customer is free to add condiments to taste and the bread is baked fresh each morning. Chicken, tuna and egg salad are on hand for sandwiches or dips and two soups are available every day. Tuesday is hot dog day and Thursday is sausage dog day. Salads include green, pasta, potato and cole slaw. It's a good idea to get there early for lunch for the best selection of food.

Phone (509) 943-4542 before 10:00 a.m. for any specialty items that can be delivered from their other Stone Soup Espresso & Deli at the Richland Parkway. Stop by either location for a tasty treat.



Tina Schleede has just whipped up a delicious iced Chai Tea for the Port's editor.

President's Message

The Port has taken a very active role in long-term economic development strategies and partnerships within our district. We share our communities' desire to transition and re-brand our region in the areas of value added agriculture and clean energy. This collaborative effort is resulting in exciting partnerships as we create an environment to support new and existing companies and industries.

One project example is the Bio Chem Cat demonstration scale project. The Port has been working with area wineries to develop a process to convert grape pomace into heat. The pilot project resulted in the Port receiving a federal grant to scale up this research with WSU Tri-Cities, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and a new company called CleanVantage. The use of the Bio Chem Cat process developed by BSEL Director, Dr. Ahring and her team, turns those waste products into bio-fuels and chemical precursors that have various industrial applications in addition to uses such as jet fuel and energy storage.

Another Port tenant, InnovaTek, is developing catalysts and micro-structured processing technology to help improve the economics of converting agricultural by-products to fuel. They are working with members of the Bio Chem Cat team at WSU in a joint project.

Our past missions have resulted in new developments and, once again, we are ready to step up and meet the needs of our nation while leveraging our local assets and abilities.



InnovaTek scientists and engineers surround their prototype device that generates hydrogen from biomass. They are developing the technology to help reduce the cost of producing green gasoline from wheat straw.

Management Team



Scott D. Keller, PPM®
Executive Director



Stuart B. Dezember, CPA
Director of Finance/
Auditor



Diahann C. Howard
Director of Economic
Development &
Governmental Affairs



John D. Haakenson
Director of Airports
& Operations



Kevin Howard
Director of
Maintenance

Commissioners



Robert D. Larson
Commission Secretary



Roy D. Keck
Commission President



Jane F. Hagarty
Commission Vice President

This newsletter was produced by the staff of the Port of Benton, Jan Jackson, editor. For information about property acquisition and leasing opportunities, please call the Port of Benton at

(509) 375-3060

3100 George Washington Way
Richland, WA 99354

www.portofbenton.com