

PORT KUDOS CORNER: *Kitty Thomas*



Congratulations to Kitty Thomas for her 12 years of service at the Port of Benton.

The Port would like to recognize Deputy Auditor Kitty Thomas on her 12 years of service at the Port of Benton.

Kitty was hired in 2006 as an Administrative Assistant. When the Port took over Crow Butte Park operations in 2008, Kitty took on the responsibility of overseeing the Park and working closely with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, United States Army Corps of Engineers and local farmers. In 2013, she was promoted to the position of Deputy Auditor.

Kitty was born and raised in Montana and returns often to visit her extended family. Kitty has two daughters and they both share her love of animals. When not at work, Kitty enjoys the ocean, hiking, fishing and anything else that involves the mountains and outdoors.

Commissioners and Executive Director



Roy D. Keck  
Commission President



Jane F. Hagarty  
Commission Vice President



Robert D. Larson  
Commission Secretary



Scott D. Keller, PPM  
Executive Director

Calendar of Events

Commission Meeting	Port Administration Building	October 17
PEDA Open House	Vintner's Village	November 1
Commission Budget Meeting	Port Administration Building	November 7
Veterans Day	Port Office Closed	November 12
Thanksgiving Holiday	Port Office Closed	November 22-23
Commission Meeting	Port Administration Building	December 12
Christmas Holiday	Port Office Closed	December 24-25
New Year's Day	Port Office Closed	January 1

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 Commission Meeting Room, 3250 Port of Benton Boulevard, Richland, Washington. March and September Commission meetings are held at the Walter Clore Wine & Culinary Center, 2140 Wine Country Road, Prosser, Washington.

For information about property acquisition and leasing opportunities, please call the Port of Benton at (509) 375-3060.

[www.PortofBenton.com](http://www.PortofBenton.com)



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POB Vintner's Village Building Space Available

The Port of Benton has completed a 9,000-square-foot development building at Vintner's Village in Prosser. The building consists of three separate 3,000-square-foot bays that are available for lease.

The facility was designed and built to attract small business start-ups to jump-start the second phase of Vintner's Village. The Prosser Economic Development Association, a Port partner, will occupy approximately 1,000 square feet of office space next to the three bays. Vintner's Village is home to 12 wineries and the Winemaker's Loft, which is a winery incubator that houses four wineries and tasting rooms. For more information call 509-375-3060.



Space in the recently completed building at Vintner's Village in Prosser is now available for lease. Contact the Port for more information.

Chukar Cherries Production Building Nears Completion

The Port of Benton is finalizing construction of a \$1.8 million, 12,000-square-foot production building that will support a product line expansion for Chukar Cherries. The facility is located at the Prosser Airport on Wine Country Road.

"The construction is on track for occupancy by October," said John Haakenson, Port Director of Special Projects. "The Port of Benton has been a key partner with Chukar Cherries since the business began in 1988, and we are excited to see the company's success and growth."

Chukar Cherries, a major regional employer, has 55 employees and plans to add 10 additional jobs following expansion. The company produces many agricultural products such as dried cherries, chocolate confections, and cherry sauces from locally grown cherries and markets its products globally.



Construction of Chukar Cherries' new production space at the Prosser Airport on Wine Country Road is on schedule. The opening is planned for October.



# Richland Airport Awarded Project of the Year

The Port of Benton attended the joint Washington Airport Management Association (WAMA)/Oregon Airport Management Association (OAMA) Conference in May, in Stevenson, Washington.

WAMA honored the Port with a 2018 Project of the Year Award for two Richland Airport improvement projects. The Circle Area Hangar Taxi Lanes Project consisted of developing approximately 20,000 square yards of hangar taxi lanes and aprons. The Pavement Rehabilitation Project included rehabilitation and repair of various airfield pavement areas.

The Port invested approximately \$2.7 million in these Richland Airport projects with the help of an Airport Improvement Program 90 percent grant from the Federal Aviation Administration.



Port of Benton's John Haakenson accepts a WAMA Project of the Year Award on behalf of the Port for the Richland Airport Improvement Project.



## Richland Airport Celebration

The 12th annual Richland Airport Aviation Celebration was held this summer. Enthusiasts were able to see a variety of vintage and experimental airplanes and enjoy food, music and free scenic flights for children ages 8 to 17. The fly-in was sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles Chapter 391.



## Wings and Wheels Show

Nearly 1,500 people attended the second annual Richland Airport Wings and Wheels fly and drive-in show in August. The free event featured 65 vintage planes including experimental, war birds and antique airplanes, as well as 80 classic cars from hot rods, classic cars, and muscle cars to military vehicles.



The Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles hosted a pancake breakfast as the kickoff event. Cascade Range Photography took pictures of attendees who dressed up in 1940s war bird and top gun pin-up looks, with hair and makeup by Zoey and Deann. All proceeds went to the Ninety-Nines Women Pilots Foundation.

# Subway® Opens in Benton City



Subway is now open for business in the Port of Benton's development building at 515 9th Street in Benton City.

The first local Subway® Fresh Forward is now open in the Port of Benton development building on 9th Street in Benton City, thanks to local entrepreneurs Jeramy and Caitlin Schultz.

The bright and modern store offers breakfast, sandwiches, wraps and salads using fresh vegetables and healthy choices for customers, and is open seven days a week.

The Schultz's have 10 employees and also own and operate KC Brand Kettle Corn in Richland.

## Tenant Spotlight

### B&B Custom Metals

Beth and Brian McCance of B&B Custom Metals are a husband and wife team that fuse design expertise with skills in metal and mechanics to create one-of-a-kind craftsmanship.

*How long have you been working in this industry?*

Brian: I have owned the business since 2012. I have been in the construction and fabrication industry all of my life.

*What are the types of custom metal products and services you provide?*

Brian: I say we are a light structural and ornamental iron shop. Products include stairs, railings, catwalk systems, mezzanines and industrial equipment. We fabricate in the shop and provide on-site welding and erection services. We also can provide mobile services.

*What is the largest custom metal product you have designed and built?*

Brian: In 2017 we were involved with the addition of seven tanks at Mercer Canyons Wine. We provided and installed all of the structural supports for the piping, as well as both aluminum and steel catwalk systems, and the structural steel for their new mechanical room. It was definitely collaboration between all contractors involved as we completed an eight month job in three months start to finish.

*Who are some of your clients you have provided services?*

Brian: Mercer Canyons Wine, Tidewater Barge Lines, Port of Benton, OEG (On Electric Group) Inc., and Amazon.



B&B Custom Metals is located at 2700 Salk Avenue in Richland.

*Where did you learn the skills you have and are you certified?*

Brian: I was raised doing this, then worked many years in the industry. I personally as well my employees hold many American Welding Society (AWS) and American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) certifications.

*What sets you apart from the other guys out there that are doing the same type of work?*

Brian: Our problem solving abilities, with my specific background, our team and their diverse knowledge, as well as the equipment we possess.

*What is the number one thing you are proud of that you provide?*

Brian: The flexibility of our shop to be able to provide intricate pieces and the ability to follow that to its installed location. This provides the highest level of quality for our customers.

[www.bbcustommetals.com](http://www.bbcustommetals.com) | 425-308-8478