



Port of Chelan County Happenings

May 2018



Commission President
Rory Turner



Commission Vice
President JC Baldwin



Commission Secretary
Donn Etherington



Executive Director
Patrick Jones

Our local economy is improving and we continue to focus our efforts on more jobs and investments in the region. We can achieve this only through strong partnerships including Partners In Economic Development, Destination San Francisco, Flywheel Investment Conference, and other

efforts to strengthen the Chelan County economy. We look forward to working with you for greater economic growth.

Please contact me, my fellow Commissioners or our staff at any time you think we can play a constructive role.

- Rory Turner, Commission President

Subsplash Will Be First Tenant at New Pybus Tech Incubator

The Port has entered into a lease with the Pybus Market Charitable Foundation for space in the Market Annex Building to support the growth of tech businesses in the region. The Annex is being remodeled, and the new Port Tech Incubator at Pybus will be located on the second floor.

Subsplash, a software development firm located in Seattle with connections to our region, has signed a lease as the inaugural tenant! The company plans to grow its workforce to 15 employees within the first year, and will contribute to our area's growing technology community.

Port Commission Approves Purchase of Executive Flight Buildings

On April 17, Port Commissioners approved an agreement for the purchase of two major buildings at Pangborn Memorial Airport from Executive Flight, Inc. for \$4.5 million. The two buildings contain aircraft hangars, offices and important business facilities, including the FedEx regional shipping

and distribution center. The agreement for the two buildings, totaling 88,000 sq ft, is scheduled to close this summer. The Port of Chelan County intends for all revenues generated by these assets to contribute to the long-term operations and capital needs of the Airport.

Ultra Polymers Locates In Olds Station Business Park

The Port welcomes Ultra Polymers as the newest manufacturing tenant in the Olds Station Business Park. The company, is relocating its entire operation from Yakima to Wenatchee. Ultra Polymers performs contract plastic molding, taking products from design

and development into production for a variety of specialized industries, including medical, aerospace and other high strength plastic applications. The company hopes to have twenty Wenatchee-based employees within a year.

Cashmere Mill District Development Begins In 2018!

Late last year, Louws Truss Company purchased 3.53 acres at the Cashmere Mill District to expand its operations to Central Washington. This sixty year old family owned company has locations in Burlington, Ferndale and Everett. Construction of the facility has commenced and will serve regional

customers. The remaining 18 acres are still available, and the Port is preparing site plan options to construct one or two additional 16,750 sq. ft. flexible industrial buildings in 2018. For more information contact Craig Larsen, Business Development Director, 509-663-5159 or Craig@portofchelancounty.com.

Kuntz Hired as Deputy Director

Port Commissioners selected Jim Kuntz to assume the role of Port Deputy Director. Mr. Kuntz currently serves as the Executive Director of the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts and previously served as the Executive Director of the Port of Walla Walla for 26 years. Kuntz, a Wenatchee native, holds an undergraduate degree from Eastern Washington University and a graduate degree from Evergreen State College. He has a record of many significant accomplishments in Walla Walla, developing their regional airport while constructing a new passenger terminal, aggressively supporting the growth of the wine industry, and leading coalitions that supported the safety-related expansion of State Highway 12.



Jim Kuntz

2017 Pangborn Airport Enplanements Increase

Despite a challenging year, with weather cancellations in January, February and December, and flight-crew-related cancellations in July and August, Pangborn Memorial Airport served more than 116,900 passengers in 2017. This represented an increase of 1.8%

over the 2016 total. The load factor, or percentage of seats filled, for the year exceeded 82%, putting Pangborn in the top tier of northwest regional airports in this important measurement.



Alaska Airlines 4th Daily Flight and “Wines Fly Free”

Beginning May 20th, Alaska Airlines will add 7 more round trips to SeaTac per week through the summer months. Strong usage of the new service is the best way to get additional air service.

In addition, members of Alaska’s mileage plan can now check a case of wine with no baggage fee. For more information contact Craig Larsen, 509-663-5159.

Destination San Francisco Bay Update

Excitement continues to grow after our region showed its support for non-stop daily regional jet service to the Bay Area by pledging \$400,000 as match for a

Federal grant. We expect a decision on our grant application soon and based on the broad community support, we are confident the matching grant will be awarded. An agreement with an airline will be the next step. Finally, it will be back on our region to support the new service and our tourism partners to promote the new connection to bring visitors from California to our region.



Partners In Economic Development Breakfast May 24

On January 17th the Port hosted the Partners in Economic Development Breakfast. Nearly 100 business leaders in attendance heard directly from Diamond Foundry COO Kyle Gazay. Kyle introduced the company and explained why they chose Wenatchee after a worldwide search to locate their first large scale production facility. The Port was honored to be part of this recruitment team effort that included Stemilt, Chelan County PUD,

City of Wenatchee, and others. Also highlighted at the event was a technology in agriculture panel focused on emerging innovations and their regional uses.

Please save the date for our next Partners Breakfast: May 24th at Wenatchee Convention Center. It will feature a keynote address from Windermere Real Estate’s Matthew Gardner, a well-known regional and national economist talking about the regional economic outlook.

Newsletter Signup: To be added to our email list, go to our website www.portofchelancounty.com under the What’s New/News Notifications tab.

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