



Photo courtesy WenatcheeOutdoors.org

# PORT SIDE



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December 2006

## Port Commissioners



**Mike Mackey**  
President / District #3



**Jim Knapp\***  
District #1



**JC Baldwin**  
District #2

\* Commissioner Knapp has announced he will resign effective Nov. 30, 2006. As this went to press his successor had not been appointed.

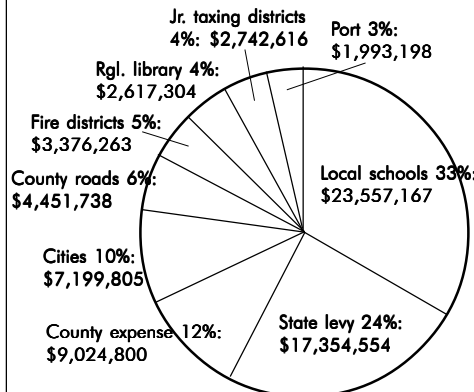
## What IS the Port of Chelan County?

When port districts were first formed in Washington state in the early 1900s, their primary purpose was to provide facilities for marine transportation and commerce. That mission has expanded over the years and now centers on **economic development**. The Port of Chelan County makes strategic investments in land, buildings, facilities and infrastructure to support and recruit businesses which can provide sustainable, family-wage jobs. Examples include Pacific Aerospace and Electronics (PAE), Yahoo!, Paine Corp., Sinclair Systems International, Accor Technology, Genesis Distribution and Pregis, among others. Together with the Port of Douglas County, the Port of Chelan County owns and operates Pangborn Memorial Airport; it jointly owns and provides major funding for the Lake Chelan Airport with the City of Chelan.

The Port also develops **partnerships** to improve the local economy. One example is the Advanced Vehicle Initiative (AVI), which is cultivating business opportunities for solar, biofuel and plug-in hybrid electric vehicle technology. Led by the Port of Chelan County, AVI partners include local chambers of commerce, the City of Wenatchee, Chelan and Douglas PUDs, Wenatchee Valley College and the Wenatchee Valley Transportation Council. Another example of pioneering work done by the Port is its wine industry feasibility study, which contributed to the development of 11 wineries in the Lake Chelan Valley and more than 100 new jobs.

Washington's ports are special-purpose districts created by voters, with limited statutory authority. They are **governed** by a board of commissioners who are elected by voters. In meetings open to the public, port commissioners set the policies that guide the development and operation of port facilities.

The Port of Chelan County is **funded** from a countywide real property tax amounting to approximately 35 cents per \$1,000 (which works out to about \$70 for a \$200,000 home), and through rental income generated from Port properties. Our philosophy has been to use the property tax revenues to invest in capital projects such as airports, business parks and boating facilities that will create new jobs and diversify the economy of Chelan County and North Central Washington.



2006 distribution of Chelan County tax dollars

## Executive Staff, Port of Chelan County

**Mark Urdahl**, executive director  
**Dayle Rushing**, properties/facilities/risk manager  
**Pat Moore**, Pangborn Memorial Airport manager  
**Laura Jaecks**, Confluence Technology Center manager  
**Ron Johnston-Rodriguez**, economic development director  
**Judy Bradford**, business manager

## What are some of the Port's recent accomplishments?

The Port's biggest success in 2006 was negotiating a 10-year lease with **Yahoo!** The Internet giant is leasing about half of the Confluence Technology Center for a data-storage facility and related offices, investing some \$12 million on tenant improvements at the CTC. The Port also welcomed a new incubator tenant to the CTC, Genesis Distribution. In other projects this year, the Port of Chelan County:

- ◆ committed \$260,000 to match a grant received by the City of Wenatchee to construct a **dock and moorage space** and expanded parking in the Orondo Street area of Riverfront Park
- ◆ committed \$180,000 to the **Wenatchee Community Center** for an educational and entrepreneurial training facility
- ◆ is participating in **Peshastin** sub-area planning process as a major land-owner
- ◆ continues to partner with the City of Leavenworth to fund facilities for an **Amtrak stop**
- ◆ made major upgrades to the Port building that houses the North Central Technical **Skills Center**
- ◆ reached agreement with Housing Authority of Chelan County and the City of Wenatchee to sell Port-owned industrial property in **Malaga** for farmworker housing
- ◆ is evaluating the potential purchase and redevelopment of a former mill site in **Cashmere**
- ◆ continues to partner with the Wenatchee Valley Chamber in efforts with Horizon Air to expand **airline service** at Pangborn Memorial Airport
- ◆ continues work with Douglas County and the Port of Douglas County to plan and extend the main Pangborn **runway** to 7000 feet for use by regional jets, when the airlines are ready to serve Pangborn with these aircraft
- ◆ continues work with Douglas County and the Port of Douglas County on an updated airport **safety overlay zone** to protect the airport from incompatible development
- ◆ continues to lead the **Advanced Vehicle Initiative** (AVI), which seeks to establish the greater Wenatchee area as a center for advanced vehicles that incorporate biofuel and plug-in hybrid electric technologies
- ◆ continues to support marketing of the county's three **wine** sub-regions
- ◆ made **tenant improvements** at Port-owned buildings to support growth of such Port tenants as Loomis Golf, Sinclair Systems International, AccuPak, Pregis, Cascade Powder Coating
- ◆ developed a design concept and is seeking state money to create a **pedestrian and bicycle path** between Confluence State Park, the Apple Capital Loop Trail and the Olds Station industrial area
- ◆ is leading an effort to enhance regional recreational tourism through formation of the **Upper Columbia Water Trail** for kayakers and canoers



# YAHOO!

The Confluence Technology Center officially celebrated the opening of Yahoo!'s data center on Nov. 16.



Skills Center students prepare for future jobs in the technology industry.



Alaska Airlines/Horizon Air currently provides four daily flights between Pangborn and Sealtac airports.



The Port's Toyota Prius was recently converted to a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, for testing and demonstration of this promising new technology. Check out the AVI's new web site: [www.plugincenter.com](http://www.plugincenter.com)

**Port of Chelan County commission meetings are open to the public. Meetings are regularly scheduled to be held the first, second and third Wednesdays of the month.**