



The Tri-City

# Alumni Update



[www.pnl.gov/edo/business/alumni](http://www.pnl.gov/edo/business/alumni)

FALL 2006 VOL. 1 | NO. 2

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Join local business owner to promote wine and philanthropy



Photo by Kevin Burbank

Washington state wineries will soon have a new venue to promote their top-tier wines and make a difference in the community. The Cave at Destiny Ridge, in the heart of

Horse Heaven Hills off Highway 14 just outside Patterson, will serve as a venue for private winemaker dinners and tastings to benefit the Make the Dash Count Foundation. The goal of the project is to encourage others to make the most of their dash, referring to the line between the dates of our birth and our passing on, by using their talents to help make the world a better place. All of the profit will be donated to the foundation, which benefits at-risk youth. For more information, visit [www.makethedashcount.com](http://www.makethedashcount.com).



### Shell building space available

An industrial shell building in Pasco built to boost economic development has landed its first tenant and is ready for more. FedEx Ground, the small-package ground-delivery unit of FedEx Corp., has signed a lease agreement with Fluor Hanford to use 30,000 square feet of the shell building to expand FedEx service operations in the Tri-Cities. FedEx Ground's 35 employees will occupy about a third of the



Industrial shell building, Pasco

103,500-square-foot building. Fluor is continuing to offer the building for sale, which would include the FedEx lease, or will seek tenants for the remaining 70,000 square feet of the main building and a 3,750-square-foot office area on the 16-acre site. Contact Bryson Bailey at TRIDEC: [bbailey@tridec.org](mailto:bbailey@tridec.org) or (509) 735-1000.

## BUSINESS NEWS

### KeyMaster acquired for \$10 million



In July, KeyMaster Technologies, Inc. of Kennewick was purchased by Bruker AXS Inc. for \$10 million. KeyMaster Technologies develops and

manufactures portable hand-held x-ray fluorescence systems to identify and analyze metals, hazardous substances, and other elements in industries such as aerospace, power, and metals processing. The instruments are also used to identify elements in art museums and archeological sites and to confirm the authenticity and origin of proprietary products. The 25-employee KeyMaster subsidiary will remain in Kennewick. For more information, visit [www.keymastertech.com/press.html](http://www.keymastertech.com/press.html). Contact Michael Willett at (978) 663-3660, ext 1411 or [ir@bruker-biosciences.com](mailto:ir@bruker-biosciences.com).

## Tri-Cities by the Numbers

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**1** Franklin County led the state in percent growth averaged over four years; Benton County came in at number three.

**34** Tri-Cities rank by *Forbes* for 'Best Small Places for Business.'

### J. Lieb Foods purchases Kennewick Welch's plant

A connection with a former Tri-City businessman led to an Oregon food processing plant opening its doors in Kennewick. Welch's recently sold its Kennewick plant to Oregon-based J. Lieb Foods, Inc. for an undisclosed amount. Jim Lieb, owner of J. Lieb Foods said, "We're excited about this opportunity. This purchase will enable us to expand our operations and add important volume." When Welch's announced the closure of its Kennewick plant, the Tri-City Development Council and the City of Kennewick joined with Welch's to find a buyer for the plant. The Welch's Kennewick plant is located at 10 East Bruneau and comprises two buildings totaling 210,000 square feet on 7.5 acres. At the time it closed, 165 people were employed there. J. Lieb Foods Business Manager, Dallas Breamer, formerly managed the Tri-Cities Enterprise Association, an incubator and mentoring program. For more information visit [www.pnl.gov/edo/business/alumni/documents/welchs.pdf](http://www.pnl.gov/edo/business/alumni/documents/welchs.pdf).

### Development offers mixed-use in Richland Research District

A new development off Richardson Road will offer restaurants, specialty shops, professional office suites, and upscale residential properties in a 23-acre section of the Richland Research District. The Willow Pointe development, which extends to Battelle Boulevard, will feature more than 1,400 feet

of river frontage including a 14-foot-wide riverside walkway for biking, strolling, or jogging. Town homes range from 1,550 to 3,000 sq ft and will be pre-wired for Internet and cable TV. For more information visit [www.abnergroupp.com](http://www.abnergroupp.com).

### Tri-City regional construction update

Benton and Franklin counties have consistently been at or near the top of the list for overall growth in the state. Just driving around the Tri-Cities, it's obvious that commercial construction is booming. But just how big is the boom?

According to the local Home Builders Association, commercial and other non-residential permits were up 77% in 2005. "All of this commercial activity helps support the new single-family residential housing starts and vice versa," said Jeff Losey, Executive Director of the Home Builders Association of Tri-Cities.



Chains like Home Depot and Wal-Mart continue to expand throughout the area, and local businesses such as Kadlec Medical Center and Country Gentleman Restaurant are starting new construction activities as well. All of this construction continues to mean new jobs and a stronger economy for the Tri-Cities.

## ALUMNUS PROFILE

**Name:** Dallas Breamer

**Current Employer:** J. Lieb Foods and Lieb Cold Storage, Oregon

**Title:** Business Manager

**Time spent in Tri-City Area:** 1987 – 1999



**Role while in Tri-City Area:** President and General Manager of the Tri-Cities Enterprise Association

**Accomplishments:**

- Awarded the Incubator of the Year award in 1998 from the National Business Incubation Association.
- Established an equity fund for emerging businesses. Tri-Cities Enterprise Association bought stock in the companies to help them build capital.
- Partnered with the Department of Energy’s Economic Transition and Diversification Program to create an entrepreneurial library for people to explore the possibility of starting their own business.

**Impression of the Tri-City Area:** “I was impressed with the area, the work ethic, and caliber of the individuals who live and work in the area. I also appreciate the community spirit and corporate citizenship as well as the support for business development, diversification, and growth.”

**Recent activities:** The Oregon company where Bremer serves as Business Manger, J. Lieb Foods, recently expanded to the former Welch’s plant in Kennewick.

**Website:** [www.jliebfoods.com](http://www.jliebfoods.com)

## TRI-CITIES NOW

### CBC Health Science Center opens



CBC Health Science Center, Richland

The \$13.2 million Columbia Basin College Health Science Center opened in September. The 66,000-sq-ft, four-story building, at the corner of Northgate Drive and Mansfield

Street in Richland, will house nearly all of CBC’s healthcare programs including phlebotomy, nursing, radiologic science, ultrasound, paramedic, and EMT. The building, a partnership with CBC, Kadlec Medical Center, and the state of Washington, includes state-of-the-art training and simulator rooms for medical and emergency healthcare

workers and a medical library for healthcare providers locally. Contact Frank Murray at [fmurray@columbiabasin.edu](mailto:fmurray@columbiabasin.edu) or (509) 547-0511 ext 2235.

### Regional population grows

According to the Washington State Department of Licensing, more than 1,250 Californians have relocated to Benton and Franklin Counties since January 1, 2005. That’s more people relocating to the area than from any other state. Those coming from Oregon came in second, followed by people from Idaho, Texas and Colorado. They come for jobs, retirement, or a better quality of life.

Gary Worrell recently came here from California to take a job with Battelle. “People here might take it for granted,” he said, “but in California you don’t have as many community



Boat basin and golf course along the river shore in Richland

pools and parks. Here there’s no graffiti, no trash and you see the kids out playing and riding their bikes. It’s very family-friendly.” He was also impressed by the number of technology-based businesses in the area. “I was amazed that there is this oasis of technology out here that you just don’t hear about,” he said.



Tri-City growth is more diversified than in the past. For example, Kadlec Medical Center continues to hire close to 150 new employees from outside the area each year. Dean Schau, regional labor economist for the Washington State Employment Security Department, attributes some of the area's growth to the increase in the food processing industry. For more information, visit [www.ofm.wa.gov/census2000/default.asp](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/census2000/default.asp).



Photo by Kevin Burbank

The Tri-City Alumni Update informs former Tri-Citians about current events and opportunities available "back home." It is published in partnership with Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, Tri-City Development Council, Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. We're hoping to reach as many former Tri-Citians as possible, so please forward this to others. It's also online at [www.pnl.gov/edo/business/alumni](http://www.pnl.gov/edo/business/alumni). To receive the newsletter via email, add someone else to the mailing list, or to be removed from the list, please contact Robin Conger at [robin.conger@pnl.gov](mailto:robin.conger@pnl.gov) or (509) 372-4328.



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