



A Historic Investment for WSU Research



Elson S. Floyd, President, Washington State University

September 20, 2011, Washington Apple and Pear Growers approve at \$27 million special project assessment to support WSU Research, Extension in Prosser and Wenatchee. It is estimated to create 100 jobs for both areas.

The purpose of this assessment will provide the following:

- Fund six endowed Chairs' operating allotment (research)
- Fund five technical transfer positions (extension)
- Fund orchard research located at WSU-Prosser and WSU-Wenatchee.

This increase in grower assessments will ensure the viability of the tree fruit industry for future generations through innovative research and sustainability practices. Processors such as Tree Top, Zirkle and Milne Fruit will also benefit from these new dollars collected.

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Benton PUD News Release

Benton PUD Commission supports House Bill 2124 and Senate Bill 5964. They were introduced to revise the Energy Independence Act (EIA) by simply clarifying that if a utility has excess energy under current contracts, then the utility has the option to choose not to buy unneeded energy or renewable energy credits as required by the EIA. As a utility grows and needs to add energy to meet growing customer needs, the new resources must meet the EIA requirements.

New Prosser EDA Office Manager

Sharon Crosby who has been with Prosser EDA since 2004, recently retired. Sharon was a pleasure to work with and we will miss her!

Becky Cantu started in August as Prosser EDA's Office Manager. She comes to us with a background in Business Administration. She has experience working for private industries and non-profit organizations. Becky has quickly picked up where Sharon left off and we welcome Becky to Prosser EDA.

Cascade Natural Gas Plans to Extend Service

Business and property owners from the Sixth Street Bridge on Wine Country Road to Exit 80 have been meeting over the past year to discuss the expansion of Cascade's service area. A total of 63 Business & Property owners were surveyed; the results indicated interest and need, along with future capture of new construction growth occurring in this area. Hindsight indicates it would have been beneficial to extend service over the 6th Street Bridge when construction was completed in 2005. This would have allowed a shorter length of time to recoup return on investment, both for Cascade and for the new users.

Today, there is both a need (from an economic development standpoint) and a demand to provide services. Preliminary cost estimates will be re-evaluated as Cascade identifies a committed customer base. Results of the September meeting determined to proceed with plans to install the gas line over the bridge to accommodate food processing users and would consider a strategic extension up Chardonnay to meet a large thermal demand.

Partner Quick Links

[Port of Benton](#)
[City of Prosser](#)
[Benton County](#)

Featuring Prosser EDA Board Member - Steve P. Sensney

"One of the key responsibilities Prosser EDA provides is assisting businesses in dealing with various governmental agencies," stated Steve Sensney, current Prosser EDA Treasurer. When asked about the future . . . "I'd like to see a responsible plan to increase additional housing within the growth management area. This plan will benefit the community in attracting new businesses," he stated. Steve is hoping improvements can be made to the streets, sidewalks, water and sewer delivery systems which would reflect positively in attracting new businesses.

Over the past five years, Steve has enjoyed watching the completion of Wine Country Road, widening the bridge, Vintner's Village build-out, the expansion of the Wine and Food Park, a new water tower and the Horse Heaven viewpoint improvement. He is pleased with the renewed cooperation between the city and other partners and potential investors in the community.

Steve Sensney has served three years as Treasurer and is an eleven year veteran as a Board Director.

Walter Clore Wine & Culinary Center Legends Event

The Newly opened Vineyard Pavilion at the Walter Clore Wine and Culinary Center hosted the Legends of Washington Wine Hall of Fame Gala.



2011 Inductee was Dr. Myles Anderson who has been instrumental in the Washington Wine industry. The Vineyard Pavilion was the perfect setting for the reception. A sold out crowd of 250+ had the opportunity to taste each of the five different **Legends Blends** wines, the newest of which was created by John Freeman of Waterbook Winery in Walla Walla.

Hor d'oeuvres were prepared by Chef Ceil Blaine and Chef Greg Bagnuck of Anthony's - Columbia Point. A live auction raised roughly \$30,000 for the Clore Center.

For more information about the Walter Clore Wine and Culinary Center visit the organization's website at www.theclorecenter.org.

Prosser, Washington Named One of the 2011 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise Alliance and ING.



Prosser, WA on October 12, 2011 was announced one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People presented by ING. ING is a signature initiative to America's Promise Alliance and an important part of the Grad Nation campaign. Each year, the Alliance and ING celebrate 100 deserving

communities who effectively provide their youth with the **Five Promises (Caring Adults, Safe Places, A Healthy Start, Effective, Education, Opportunities to Help Others)** and work to increase graduation rates. Winning communities come from all across the country and are addressing the unique challenges they face.

Prosser is a community of less than 6,000 people is dedicated to its young people and providing them with academic support and leadership opportunities. The Prosser School District school board demonstrates its commitment to young people by maintaining a youth advisory position filled by a representative who is consulted on all youth matters, including school policy, community issues and student services.

Prosser will receive a \$2,500 grant, signage identifying the community as one of the nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People, and access to America's Promise Alliance's community development resources.

A Prosser mother, Lisa Schmitt, who nominated the city and wrote the application, also has children and other family attending the schools, told a crowd of city and school officials that her biggest challenge on the application was to fit everything in.

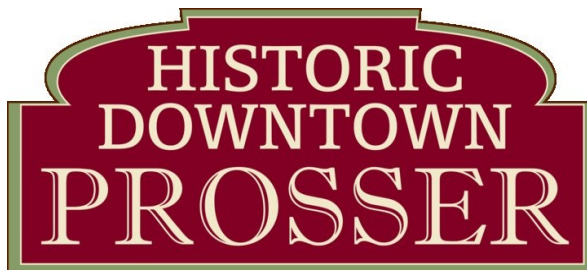
This year, more than 300 communities in all 50 states and Washington, D.C., were nominated for the competition. The winners come from 39 states and again Prosser was one of those cities. America's Promise Alliance was founded by Gen. Colin Powell, former US Secretary of State and his wife Alma Powell who is the current chair woman.

Community Organization Updates

Prosser Farmers Market

Prosser Farmers Market is collecting food donations in the month of October. Bring non-perishable food items to the market to fill the market van. All proceeds will be going to Jubilee Ministry Food Bank.

Prosser Farmers Market season is almost over. Every Saturday, 8 to noon, May through October, visit the Prosser City Park where you can choose the freshest fruits & vegetables from a wide variety of vendors and select artisan breads, pastries and cheeses that are always available at the Market Booth. Remember, the Market now accepts credit, debit and WA State Quest EBT cards.



Historic Downtown Prosser installed a street clock that was ready for the harvest fest and street dance held on September 23rd. The street clock was made possible with the help of generous contributors.

Historic Downtown still holds monthly movies at the Princess Theater. In October they will have their Scarecrow Contest, December there will be a Holiday Window Decorating contest and also a Caroling Contest. Check out what's happening downtown, visit their website by clicking on their logo.

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www.prosser.org

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