

Welcome Northwest Fourslide

Groundbreaking!

The Mellingers were joined in the ceremonial dig by area dignitaries including state Rep. Lori McCann, Lewiston Mayor Dan Johnson, Port of Lewiston Commissioners and Nez Perce County Commissioner Doug Zenner.



It was a family affair as the NW Fourslide broke ground on their 43,000-square-foot plant in the Harry Wall Industrial Park on July 20th. The company, a manufacturer specializing in precision stamping and wire forms, is relocating their operations from Tualatin, Oregon.

For company President Jan Mellinger, Lewiston's family-oriented community and supportive business climate were deciding factors.

"This is the place where we felt we were at home," said Mellinger. "We want to be your friends, we can't wait to be your neighbors, we want to work with you."

The facility, which will open in 2024, will bring more than 40 employees and their families to the region.

Port General Manager Scott Corbitt who worked with the Mellingers on their decision while at Valley Vision, said he looked forward to having NW Fourslide as a neighbor and community partner.

"There could not be a better fit for our Valley than the Mellingers and NW Fourslide."



NW Fourslide President and CEO Jan Mellinger, above, greeted the crowd that braved the heat. At left, Port Commissioners Michael Thomason, Jerry Klemm and Joseph Anderson joined the festivities.



American Cruise Lines Headed into Port



Photo Courtesy of American Cruise Lines

The Port of Lewiston and American Cruise Lines are proud to announce a public-private partnership that will bring cruise boats into the Port and millions of dollars in tourist revenue into Lewiston and the LC Valley.

“We couldn’t be more proud to see this collaborative effort come to fruition,” said Port Commissioner Jerry Klemm. “American Cruise Lines is a leader in the industry, and we’re looking forward to working with them to maximize the economic opportunities for Valley businesses while enhancing our recreational opportunities at the Port.”

The partnership will create a dock for cruise ships in the Port, giving Columbia and Snake River cruise routes an ideal stopping point to explore all the region has to offer. The Port of Lewiston dock, the only one in the state, will bring added capacity to the

expanding industry presence in the LC Valley, ensuring an increasing flow of tourist dollars to our local retail, recreational and hospitality businesses. The dock is expected to be up and running for the 2025 cruise season.

“American Cruise Lines is proud to operate a fleet of modern, U.S. built riverboats on the Columbia Snake River System,” said Kristin Meira, Director of Government Affairs for American Cruise Lines. “Partnering with the Port of Lewiston will bring even greater economic benefits to the Lewis-Clark Valley; bringing sustainable tourism to the Lewiston waterfront and strengthening existing ties to excursion providers, downtown retailers, hotels and the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Airport. American Cruise Lines is thrilled to build upon its already robust presence in the community, and looks forward to showcasing

Lewiston as a tourism destination.”

Port Commissioner Joe Anderson also expressed support for the partnership and its potential for the economic development of the Valley.

“This partnership fits perfectly in line with the Port’s mission to foster job creation and industry growth that ultimately enhances the quality of life for area residents,” Anderson said. “We are excited to get started.”

The Port’s team and Commissioners have worked closely with American Cruise Lines on the partnership, which will also create public access to the river for other recreational activities. While the Port will retain ownership of the dock, American Cruise Lines will provide dock management services.

“The American Cruise Lines agreement comes after months of negotiation. It is good to be a part of this very successful and growing tourism effort that will bring millions of dollars to our community,” said Port Commission President Mike Thomason.

American Cruise Lines offers river cruising and small ship cruising in the United States. All cruises focus on the history, spirit and culture of the country. In 2023, the company operates 17 ships cruising more than 50 domestic routes in 35 states.



Corbitt: We are not Expendable

General Manager Scott Corbitt pulled no punches during recent congressional testimony, stressing the enormous impact the lower Snake River dams have on the economies of Lewiston and surrounding regions.

“Unfortunately, dam removal proponents, people who live hundreds of miles from Lewiston, make it sound as if their loss is no big deal, and that’s because to them we are expendable,” Corbitt said. “My request is simple; that Congress and the federal government do not consider us expendable.”

The hearing, which was entitled “*The Northwest at Risk: The Environmentalist’s Effort to Destroy Navigation, Transportation and Access to Reliable Power*”, was held June 26 before the US House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries. More than 400 residents attended to hear testimony on the impact of the dam system from Corbitt and other shareholders of the river system, including representatives from the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine

Fisheries Service, Washington Association of Wheat Growers and other utility districts from Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

“To accurately gauge the impact of dam removal on a place like Lewiston, one needs to look at both business and governmental infrastructure,” Corbitt explained.

The Lewis-Clark Valley’s economy has been boosted by the Port since its creation in 1958, providing vital transportation for industry, farmers and recreation. Key Valley industries and employers like Clearwater Paper and Clearwater Power as well as

the numerous local businesses rely on the shipping and barging capabilities of the Port. The Lewis Clark Grain Terminal, another cornerstone of Port traffic, supports 3,000 regional farm families. All would be in jeopardy if the push to remove dams is successful.

“If the dams are breached, critical local infrastructure like water treatment, stormwater and sewer will require major modification or replacement,” Corbitt warned. “Without (the dams) our economy and our communities will dry up, along with the river.”



Did You Know?

Since 1990 the tax rate levied by the Port has decreased by approximately 80%, and costs the average homeowner less than \$15/year.



IMPACT

General
Manager Scott
Corbitt



Your Port is busier than ever with a host of impactful projects poised to shape economic development in the Valley. Now that our full team is on board, we are laser focused on our mission, which is to create jobs and stimulate trade while also enhancing the quality of life in Nez Perce County.

These are just a few of the impactful projects on deck at the Port.

- Our broadband program is expanding from our 53 miles of community fiber to include building a 95-mile middle mile backbone network to transport information across North Central Idaho at light speed.
- We have reached an agreement on a public-private partnership with American Cruise Lines to create a cruise boat venue with a dock for tourists and amenities for locals.
- We are preparing property for our new neighbors, Northwest Fourslide, as they transition to their new home in the Harry Wall Industrial Park.
- We continue to welcome High, Wide & Heavy loads as they transition up Marine Highway M-84.
- We look forward to the possible return of container traffic to that highway.

- A new harvest cycle is fast approaching, and we can't wait!

The Port is in a unique position as Idaho's only seaport. We are a multi-modal transportation hub and a regional leader in economic development. We embrace the opportunities to contribute to the vitality of the region!

With our full bus of amazing teammates now on board, your Port team is ready to tackle the challenges ahead. The Port of Lewiston is here to create an impact for the Port District. Under the leadership of our Port Commissioners, we are in a great position to do just that. Let's Go!



Jen Blood

New Port Team on Board

The Port of Lewiston team recently welcomed two key members and promoted a third to fill out its current staff.

In May, the Port welcomed Jen Blood as its new Operations manager. Jen is a Washington State University graduate with a civil engineering degree and a Professional Engineering license. She will manage the Port's broadband and process improvement programs.



Mary Iacobelli

In July, the Port welcomed Mary Iacobelli as its Communications. Coordinator. Mary has a journalism degree and experience as a news reporter. She will coordinate the Port's messaging, social media, events and office communications.

Finally, the Port is proud to promote Kim Petrie to Properties & Finance Manager. Kim has been with the Port for 12 years. She will manage the relationships with our great Port tenants and lead or budgeting and financial management.