

Morrow Re:Port

52 Years as Port Commissioner: Larry Lindsay

The landscape was empty when Larry Lindsay was appointed to the Port of Morrow Commission on April 20, 1967. Lindsay recalls there were no employees and no industry.

“It’s hard to imagine looking back,” he reminisces. “There was nothing here at that time. The county had voted for a port commission in 1958 and it was collecting tax money to try and acquire land. There was nothing [running] on the river. It had a long way to go, but there were exceptional people on the Commission that saw a lot to the future.”

Development came slowly at first. Food processing industries began to arrive in the 1970’s. In 1981 development along the waterfront started with a wood chip reload facility followed by a grain terminal, and by 1984, a container dock had been constructed. All the right elements were coming into place for growth.

“If you ask Larry what his biggest accomplishment was in 52 years with the Port, he would tell you it’s when he helped hire Gary Neal as manager, because that’s the kind of person Larry is,” says Marv Padberg, who served alongside Lindsay as a Port Commissioner since 1995.

Neal considers himself fortunate for having known Lindsay for more than 30 years. “The thing that stands out to me was the day my family and I traveled to the Port of Morrow to meet with him to discuss the general manager position,” recalls Neal. “I could tell right away that he was someone who would be a very good person to work for. He was a wealth of knowledge and very personable, you knew he had a passion about the Port of Morrow and Morrow County, all the right elements of a great leader and a great commissioner. Larry has always been one of the kindest individuals that I have ever met.”

In 1989, land around the Port was a blank canvas ready to be painted with economic development artistry. Infrastructure was added and more industry followed. By December 2017, Port-related businesses accounted for nearly \$2.8 billion in annual output and more than 8,400 jobs – 52% of all jobs in Morrow County.

Lindsay is quick to credit Neal and others for the growth, but his long tenure provided a crucial foundation as the Port expanded.



*Larry and Corrine Lindsay
Lindsay was honored on June 12, 2019 for his service
to the Port of Morrow and Morrow County*

“Larry Lindsay serving as a Port Commissioner for 52 years brought a knowledge of the history of the Port that was irreplaceable when the Commission and staff discussed strategies on long-term planning for growth at the Port and Morrow County as a whole,” Neal explains. “In carrying out the mission of the Port of Morrow, Larry’s experience on the Board always came into discussions and we drew on that experience in setting the course of the Port moving forward. Larry’s years of service certainly played a key role in helping the Port become the regional economic hub that it is today.”

Padberg agrees. “Larry was a great mentor to Jerry [Healy] and I. He passed along his passion for the wellbeing of the Port. He was always professional in his duties as a Commissioner, with a great sense of humor, and when something needed to be said in a discussion on Port business, we all sat up and listened when he spoke. His long history with the Port helped us many times to not repeat a misstep made in the past.”

New leadership is building on the foundation laid.

“Larry is a great role model on what volunteering means. His leadership and vision and commitment to the Port will always be remembered,” says Executive Director Ryan Neal.

“It’s been an interesting ride,” concludes Lindsay, looking over his shoulder at the Columbia River. “It’s beautiful to see out here.”



2019 Nuts, Bolts, and Thingamajigs Camp

In its second year, the Eastern Oregon Nuts, Bolts, & Thingamajigs Camp is a practical and fun way for students to learn about the manufacturing process from start to finish.

“Our goal is to show students that they can innovate, design, and build anything they put their minds to,” says Camp Director Kalie Davis.

While there is curriculum and guest speakers, the camp is not about sitting and listening. The program is designed to engage students with hands-on activities like teambuilding games, industry tours, and two manufacturing projects that include learning how to use SolidWorks, computer-aided design/engineering software used by engineers and designers worldwide. The week ends with a showcase of projects and family bar-b-que.

Paula, a sixth grade student shares, “We made a solar panel powered car Monday and now we’re making step stools. I’ve never really gotten to use a saw before, so that’s cool. It’s a really cool experience. We get to learn a lot of neat things.”

The leaders enjoy the time as much as the students do.

“I used to be at these camps when I was younger and now I’m able to help teach these kids,” says Daniel Rodriguez-Pena, the workforce training intern. “It’s a lot of fun. I go home pretty tired because they’re long and busy days, but good days too because everyone is learning and that’s the most important thing.”

Davis concludes, “We love seeing each student light up when they transform a pile of wood into something valuable or learn something new that excites them about a future career.”

John Murray joins the Port Commission

As an independent business owner with pharmacies in Heppner, Boardman, and Condon, Murray brings his business background, a can-do, positive attitude, and a willingness to work hard. He has long sought to make a difference in the communities where he lives and works.

Born and raised in Heppner, Murray has been hearing about the Port of Morrow for 35 years, ever since he married Larry Lindsay’s daughter, Ann. “Larry has always spoken of the Port with great pride, about the accomplishments and what a difference it has made in Morrow County,” he recalls, explaining what influenced him to run for the position.

Murray is excited about the opportunity to serve. “I like the holistic approach to building community in Morrow County, whether it’s in Boardman, Heppner, Irrigon, Lone, Lexington or the entire county - I love that,” he says, noting community-oriented projects the Port has helped with, benefits from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone, and unique projects such as the Neal Early Learning Center and Workforce Development program.

“I think that we’re on the right track,” he says about the future of the Port. “I think we need to continue to support agriculture the best we can. It’s a nice addition to have the data centers and the transportation companies. It’s a good mix right now and I don’t propose changing what we’re doing. Focusing only on one segment of any kind of industry has its dangers. We’re maybe hitting some of our maximums if we continue down any one path.”



PNWA Summer Conference

The Pacific Northwest Waterways Association summer conference was held June 25-27 in Hood River. Members meet mid-year to touch base about regional priorities. The summer conference included topics of interest such as federal transportation, cybersecurity, and updates on hydropower and environmental leadership from Bonneville Power Administration and NOAA fisheries.

“The Pacific Northwest Waterways Association works hard as an advocate for issues that are important to the Port of Morrow for the growth of our local economy,” says Economic Development Director Lisa Mittelsdorf. “They help support transportation, environmental, energy and infrastructure needs so businesses can operate and get their commodities to market.”

The PNWA Annual Convention will take place the second week of October in Vancouver, Washington.



Freezer Warehouse Expansion



Construction is underway at the Port of Morrow Freezer Warehouse on a 45,000 square foot chill room. Although freezer and dry storage warehouse facilities dot the region, the refrigerated warehouse is unique to eastern Oregon and southeast Washington. “This is another unique service we can offer clients at the Port,” states Executive Director Ryan Neal.

The new room is long and narrow compared to the existing freezer warehouse. Senior Structural Designer Walter Ross explains that to maximize the space inside, longer beam spans are necessary. It also must withstand the same wind and seismic loading of the larger buildings. “We calculate all

the figures and determine how much force the building will take during a high wind or seismic event,” he says. “Due to the larger spans and limited wall space for lateral systems, our footings and steel frames are much heavier to compensate.”

The room is being built on the west side of the existing freezer warehouse and will operate at a strictly controlled refrigerated temperature. It will have approximately 9,300 pallet positions.

“The expansion is exciting,” says Warehouse Services Manager Marcine Brangham. “This is a long-term investment that will benefit our customers.”

2019 Educator Externship

The Educator Externship was born from a desire to bridge the gap between education and industry. Held in June, the intensive eight-day program exposed eleven teachers from Morrow and Umatilla counties to all facets of workplace practices and provided opportunities for meaningful discussion about careers and pathways.

Workforce Training Program Manager, Kalie Davis, oversees the program for Morrow and Umatilla county educators. “We have great careers in our region that most students don’t know about,” she reports. “This partnership creates awareness and avenues for our students to learn about the best route to a meaningful career right in their own backyard.”

Irrigon Science Teacher, Tim McCreary agrees. “One thing that this program has done is select a wide variety of industries. Careers are much broader than I anticipated. We’re not just ag-based and there are a lot of careers in each of the industries that [students] might not think about.”

McCreary is already brainstorming how he will apply the knowledge in his classroom. “I can redesign my labs towards the hands-on. I’m going to try and make it much more practical for my students.”

The Educator Externship was designed by Associated General Contractors Oregon Columbia Chapter and Willamette Promise. The program wouldn’t be possible without local industry partners who are dedicated to making a difference. “Their willingness to meet with teachers, share their passion about career opportunities, and offer help in whatever way they can speaks volumes about their dedication to our youth,” says Davis. “We are also grateful to AGC and Willamette Promise for allowing us to participate in this innovative program.”



Teachers work on an electrical project during a session

2019 Summer Interns

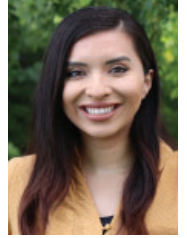
Christian Murguia Avalos enrolled in the Blue Mountain Community College Diesel Tech Program. He is assisting mechanics at the maintenance shop and says "I'm glad that I was given this chance. It truly is great working here."



Misael Madrigal is a Civil Engineering student at the University of Portland and is an intern in the Port's Engineering Department. He says, "I was fondly surprised by the scale of operation of the Port of Morrow. Working in the Engineering Department, I was able to see all the projects being developed and truly realize how quickly the Port of Morrow and the City of Boardman are growing."



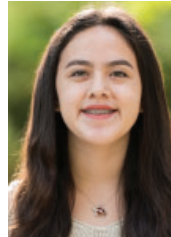
Jennifer Rodriguez-Pena is entering her third year at Oregon State University studying Design and Innovation Management with minors in Marketing and Spanish. She is filling the role of Office Administration Intern assisting the main office staff. She reports that she is thankful for the opportunity and looking forward to learning more about the Port of Morrow.



Abigail Hernandez is attending the University of Oregon as a Sports Business major with a minor in Spanish. This is her second year working for the Port with the construction crew.



Xenia Velasco Mendoza is in her second year at Oregon State University studying Sociology with a focus on Criminal Justice and a minor in Spanish. This is her third year as an intern working with the construction crew. She thanks the Port for the opportunity and says that she has learned many valuable skills through the internship.



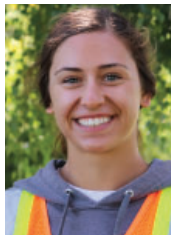
Brock Rosen is studying Cyber Security at Columbia Basin College. This is his first year working for the Port and says that he has learned a lot about landscaping and the hard work that goes behind it.



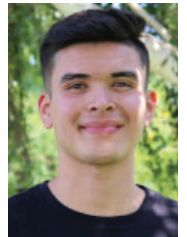
Daniel LaBeau joins the Landscape Maintenance department. He plans to attend Blue Mountain Community College in the fall and appreciates the opportunity to gain experience. This is his first year working for the Port.



Faith Rosen is studying nursing at Blue Mountain Community College. She also joins the Landscaping Maintenance team for her first year at the Port.



Daniel Rodriguez-Pena is studying Operations and Technology Management and Spanish with a minor in Computer Science. He is the Workforce Training Intern, a new position this year. He says, "The Port of Morrow has been a tremendous help throughout my first year at the University of Portland by providing me with an opportunity to work and build myself as an employee. The Port of Morrow does a lot for the community and students and I will always be grateful for this."



What makes our region's agriculture sustainable?



SAGE Center: Discover What's Inside!



At the Sustainable Agriculture and Energy Center, our mission is hands-on learning and education through fun and interactive multi-media exhibits. Soar over Morrow County on a simulated hot air balloon ride. Watch a potato turn into curly fries. Try your hand at milking a cow or driving a tractor. Browse our gift shop and finish your visit with a scoop of delicious Tillamook ice cream!



SAGE CENTER
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY | BOARDMAN, OREGON

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SAGE Center Highlights

Art Exhibits

We are pleased to announce the opening of our gallery space for art exhibits. Art by Michelle Walchli is on display this summer. This fall's exhibition will include award winning local artists from the Morrow County fair!



Save the Date

SAGE Saturdays: Every Second Saturday
Free activities for kids and free admission for everyone all day!

OMSI: August 24-25 - OMSI returns to the SAGE Center with exciting activities! Watch Facebook for details.

Harvest Festival: October 5 - This free family event includes artisan vendors, fun activities for kids, a photo booth, beer & wine tasting, and more!

Hours of Operation
Labor Day thru Memorial Day

Monday - Saturday 10-5

Memorial Day thru Labor Day

Sunday - Thurs 10-5 and Friday -Saturday 10-6.