

Morrow Re:Port

East Beach Rail Construction Underway

Along Columbia Avenue earth movers are leveling and grading the future rail bed for the East Beach Rail Project. It is a fascinating process to watch. The articulating scrapers pick up soil from one location and carry it to another. A grader follows and levels the neatly dumped rows of dirt. The result will be a gently sloped and curved track for trains transporting commodities to and from Port industries.

The purpose of the project is to improve rail operations, service, and capacity within the East Beach Industrial Park. An immediate benefit to industries will be the increased capacity for unit trains. Unit trains, a train in which all cars carry the same commodity, currently deliver corn and grain to Pacific Ethanol and Morrow County Grain Growers.

“The East Beach Rail Project is going to be very important to us,” says Kevin Gray, general manager at Morrow County Grain Growers. “As we look at growing the size and scale of our Boardman shuttle facility in the future, having the ability to stage multiple trains on-site will assist us in becoming a premier grain destination and provide enhanced efficiencies for our



Earth movers prepare the new rail bed at the East Beach Industrial Park.

servicing railroad. We’re extremely excited about this expansion project and the growth potential it will provide for us and our cooperative members.”

Additionally, trains will be able to reroute along the new track and cross Columbia Avenue at a point farther north, reducing traffic delays and congestion at the existing Columbia Avenue crossing.

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Neal Early Learning Center Expansion Construction Begins

Less than three years after opening, the Neal Early Learning Center is expanding. Construction began in the spring to add six new classrooms, a multipurpose area, and new office support spaces to the facility. The addition makes it possible to bring several early learning initiatives into one common landscape designed specifically to meet the needs of young learners.

The Boardman Industry Learning Center (BILC), which began offsite as a pilot program, will be moved to the new space. This unique program combines the benefits of full day and full year day care with preschool. Half of the classrooms in the expansion will support this three to five-year-old learning environment. Oregon’s Pre-Kindergarten Prenatal to Three program will be in the remaining new classrooms. Both initiatives support early education through language and literacy, health and nutrition, physical development and health, social and emotional development, and parent education and family support. The new multipurpose area will serve as a community gathering space and location for parent education and family support activities.



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NELC Construction, Cont.

In addition to support from the Port of Morrow, the Oregon Legislature provided \$1 million in the fall of 2019 to secure and support an early learning center in our area with House Bill 5050. Ninety percent of the funds support the construction costs and 10 percent of the resources support the administrative functions.

“We thank the Morrow County School District for prioritizing universal access for our youngest children to insure they are ready for kindergarten,” says Maureen McGrath, executive director of Umatilla-Morrow County Head Start. “In addition, the support and leadership of the Port of Morrow in tandem with business, industry, local service partners and Representative Greg Smith has been instrumental in the process. I see the expansion of the Neal Early Learning Center as one more way to equip children for lifelong learning and success.”



Maureen McGrath and Dan Daltoso from UMCHS tour the construction site.

The Neal Early Learning Center was born from a vision to provide care and education for children ages birth to five in Morrow County. It was an aspiration shared by Morrow County leadership, Morrow County School District, Port of Morrow, InterMountain ESD (IMESD), Blue Mountain Community College, and Umatilla-Morrow Head Start. Programs already operating at the center include the Head Start/Oregon Pre-Kindergarten program, the Little Pirates Morrow County School District preschool, and the IMESD Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program.

East Beach Rail Construction, Cont.

The new track will also provide rail infrastructure for future industrial development. Port industries will not be the only beneficiaries of the expansion. The ability to shift commodities from rail to barges will reduce train traffic along the highly congested Columbia Gorge rail route. Portland grain elevators will see increased competitiveness with the ability to receive commodities from unit trains by barge. The shorter distance between point of origin and the improved terminals decreases the turn times of the unit trains, allowing for an increased number of deliveries. Likewise, local livestock producers gain access to a closer supply of feed, reducing truck transportation and maintenance costs. Finally, the environment also benefits from the reduction of fuel consumption and energy use, the reduction of air emissions, and the ability to utilize the efficient barge system for shipping.

“It’s an exciting opportunity to continue developing our river front and inland terminals. This will provide greater industry access for rail and help current and future port tenants better utilize multiple shipping resources. It’s exciting that we can do these multiple big projects all at once, like the East Beach rail, the freezer expansion and the BUILD grant,” says Walter Ross, senior structural designer for the Port of Morrow.

The East Beach Rail Expansion Project is made possible by a \$6.55 million Connect Oregon grant funded in 2019. Past Connect Oregon grants have been instrumental in expanding multimodal infrastructure at the Port, including improvements at Terminal 3, a rail logistics center, the cold storage rail transload facility, and the recent rail expansion at the Morrow County Grain Growers offload facility.

POM Warehousing AIB Audit

AIB International conducted their annual GMP Inspection audit of the Port of Morrow Warehouse facility on January 30, 2020 and the Port of Morrow Cold Storage on April 10, 2020.

POM Warehousing Dry Storage received a Superior rating of 995 out of 1,000 possible points. (30 points higher than 2019)

POM Warehousing Cold Storage received a Superior rating of 990 out of 1,000 possible points. (No change from 2019)

The audit ensures that facilities meet standards for Food Distribution Centers. The rigorous audit inspects all components of food storage and distribution including, but not limited to, sanitation, food defense, pest control, food safety, equipment, GMPs, recall programs (warehouse to customer), and maintenance. Operating procedures and practices are also evaluated. POM Warehousing has received a Superior rating with AIB International since 2016.



2020 Summer Interns

Bailey Botefuhr is a 2020 graduate from Irrigon High School. This is her first year on the summer crew for the Port of Morrow. She plans on attending Mt. Hood Community College studying Exercise and Sports Science. Botefuhr was awarded an athletic scholarship and looks forward to playing softball for the college.



Botefuhr



LaBeau

Daniel LaBeau is a 2020 Hermiston Christian School graduate with plans to attend Blue Mountain Community College in the fall. He plans on transferring to Washington State University to continue studying mechanical or civil engineering. This is his second summer at the Port of Morrow.

Abigail Hernandez joins the Port for her third year on the summer crew. "I am grateful for everything the Port does for our town and students. They have been a huge help through my college journey, and I couldn't be more thankful," she shares. Hernandez is studying Business Administration with a sports marketing and international business concentration and is minoring in Spanish at the University of Oregon.



Hernandez



Madrigal

Misael Madrigal is a second-year engineering intern at the Port of Morrow. He shares, "As diverse as the engineering field is, it is crucial for an engineering student to gain experience and knowledge of the multiple disciplines that form the civil engineering field. The experience I gain in the Port of Morrow not only helps me form a more profound understanding of the civil engineering field, but also helps me develop as a professional." Madrigal is attending the University of Portland and is a 2018 graduate of Riverside Jr/Sr High School.

Daniel Rodriguez-Pena is another three-year Port summer crew veteran. "I feel blessed to work for a supportive organization like the Port of Morrow," he says. "The people who work here are truly what makes this business so special." Rodriguez-Pena is an Operations and Technology Management major at the University of Portland.



Rodriguez-Pena



Rosen

Brock Rosen attends Columbia Basin College in Pasco, WA. This is his second season on the summer crew until he begins his internship with AWS as a Data Center Technician at the end of June. "This is a great program. It teaches kids hard work and responsibility," Rosen shares of the Port summer internship opportunity, adding that he feels blessed to have a job during the pandemic.

Morgan Orem graduated from Lone High School in 2018 and is currently attending Oregon State University with a major in Agricultural Sciences. This is Orem's first year and she joins the Port as the workforce training intern. She says, "I am very grateful for this opportunity and look forward to learning more about the POM and all it has to offer."



Orem



White

Haley White is a 2020 Baker Charter School graduate who will be playing volleyball at Mt. Hood Community College. "I am going to study biology so that I can get a degree as a medical lab technician," says White. This is her first summer with the Port.

Discover, Learn & Play!



We invite you to drive by and see the new metal artwork installed at our entrance! We would like to thank the Boardman Community Development Association for this cheerful enhancement project!



Artwork created by Zack Ash at Mid-Columbia Metal Works

101 OLSON ROAD ■ BOARDMAN, OR ■ EXIT 164
WWW.VISITSAGE.COM ■ 541.481.7243

Explore Ag & Energy Online!

We wish you could be here in person, but did you know you can explore and learn about sustainable agriculture and energy from home? We've gathered a few resources for learners of all ages to enjoy.

Visit the SAGE Center website for the links:
<https://www.visitsage.com/explore>

Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom: Take Virtual Farm Field Trips and visit the online e-learning lab organized by grade levels.

Bonneville Power Administration: Download the activity book and discover "How electricity moves from nature to your home"!

Travel Oregon: Kids getting antsy at home? Try some fun, unofficial lesson plans that are all about Oregon.

Oregon's Mount Hood Territory: Children can learn about the westward trek with a special activity and coloring book. Inside they'll match animals to their tracks, learn hand gestures used between pioneers and Native American tribes, connect the dots and more.

National AG in the Classroom: Utilize the Student Center which includes AG Smarts, career seeker, AG Today, Games, and Virtual Tours.

When it is safe to travel, we hope you will be our guest. Follow us on Facebook or visit our website for our re-opening announcement and discover more interactive sites!

SAGE Center on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/SAGECenterOR>

Employment Resources

Did you know that Morrow County ranks 4th in Oregon for average annual wage jobs? Check out www.workforceportal.org for information on current industry openings.

Helpful Resume Tips For Job Seekers

- Keep your resume concise with no more than two pages
- Use bullet points and headings to format your information
- Highlight any awards, training, or promotions
- List work history and education chronologically with the most recent at the top
- Ask someone you trust to review your resume and give feedback

Do you need help working on your resume or cover letter?

Contact Kalie Davis, Workforce Training Manager
kalied@portofmorrow.com, 541-571-1624