

Morrow Re:Port

Port awarded \$1.6 million MARAD grant

In January, the Port of Morrow received a grant from the United States Department of Transportation under the U.S. Maritime Administration's (MARAD) Marine Highway Program. The \$1,623,000 grant will be used for improvements at the Port's marine terminals. It's the latest in a series of steps to expand infrastructure and shipping services for industries located at the Port.

The Columbia River Barge Terminal Rail Access Project was awarded a \$19.4 million U.S. Department of Transportation BUILD grant in 2018 and, when complete, will connect rail spurs from marine terminals with the Union Pacific mainline. The East Beach Rail Expansion Project was awarded funds through Connect Oregon and will extend rail access through the East Beach Industrial Park.

The recent MARAD grant will enhance Terminals One and Three along Marine Drive by conducting dredging, constructing a turning cell for marine barge navigation access, installing a new crane control system, purchasing a container handler, and making surface improvements.



Improvements at terminals one and three at the Port of Morrow will bring expanded shipping opportunities for businesses along the Columbia River.

"This grant award provides necessary funds to complete our Terminal One development and make much needed improvements to Terminal Three," states Port of Morrow Director of Economic Development, Lisa Mittelsdorf.

"Getting the dredging and turn cell at Terminal One will give the Port many new opportunities to move cargo on the Columbia River."

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What's happening at the SAGE Center

It's a busy season for the SAGE Center. The annual job fair, held Wednesday, March 4 from 9 AM to 1 PM, is an opportunity for job seekers to meet more than 25 employers in agriculture, energy, processing, technology and health care. Special events and speakers for students provide a chance to identify education and training for high demand positions in our region and to attend the College Fair, held next door at the BMCC Workforce Training Center. This event is sponsored by OSU Extension Service, Blue Mountain Community College, and the SAGE Center.

As one of eight official Oregon Welcome Centers, families planning spring and summer vacations will appreciate the travel guides and resources available at the SAGE Center. Discover fun and unique locations around Oregon, collect limited edition posters, and follow the adventures of Yeti and Squatch as they explore Oregon!



Installed in February, a new exhibit by the Oregon Cattlewomen is a visual showcase featuring the beef lifecycle, an interactive video showcasing dedicated work of local producers and their work for the beef industry, and nutritional facts about beef products. A life-size bull is the honorary exhibit mascot.

Grant awarded, cont.

The Port partnered with many public and private entities to make these projects possible.

Port of Morrow Executive Director, Ryan Neal, appreciates the overwhelming support from Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden, and Congressman Walden. "All three were actively involved in helping support this grant funding request. We also appreciate the efforts of all our river transportation partners and their help in providing the necessary data to complete this application. We look forward to new transportation opportunities and to continuing our work with the High, Wide and Heavy Coalition."

Refrigerated Warehouse Expansion Opens



The new 45,000 square foot chill room at the Port of Morrow Freezer Warehouse is complete and open for business. The first product delivery was received January 17. The refrigerated warehouse is the only one of its kind in eastern Oregon and southeast Washington.

"The addition of our refrigerated facility adds diversity to the services we offer. It benefits our customers and the region," says Marcine Brangham, warehouse services manager.

Columbia Works Internship Program

The Port of Morrow, in partnership with regional industries, has launched the new Columbia Works Summer Internship Program. Columbia Works is an industry-led, summer work experience program featuring paid internships, free professional development training, and application assistance.



The program was established to link regional employers with high school and college students who are looking to gain experience in their prospective career field. Prospective interns can choose from a diverse set of opportunities that range from farming, food processing, education, business, information technology, workforce development, and more.

"We believe Columbia Works is a great resource to get students the real-world experience and exposure to our industry and to see the potential career path they can have," says Kirk Jacobson, Beef Northwest human resources manager and Columbia Works steering committee member.

Columbia Works is part of the Oregon Works network, that has seen success in different regions across the state. Initially designed by the McMinnville Economic Development Partnership, the model has been adapted to fit Morrow County business needs.

"Our goal is to make connections," explains Kalie Davis, workforce training manager at the Port of Morrow. "We want to make things as easy as possible for both our industry partners and young adults looking for internship opportunities."

Columbia Works is promoting 58 internship opportunities from nine employers in its inaugural year. The positions are listed online at www.columbiaworks.org. The application period is open through April 1, 2020.

"We are very fortunate to have forward-thinking businesses," Davis shares. "By providing these internship opportunities we are building relationships with young professionals who we hope will eventually make Morrow County their home."

The Columbia Works Program is a collaboration between Morrow County businesses, Morrow County Chambers of Commerce, and the Port of Morrow to grow and promote summer internship opportunities.

Boardman Industry Learning Center

In Boardman, a remarkable child care center has been putting down roots and growing. Designed for three to five-year-old students, the Boardman Industry Learning Center blends the best features of day care with the structure of early education.

“We needed a center where we could cultivate childhood in a way that teaches children, allows them to play in an environment that feels like home, and is stimulating and ignites their curiosity,” says Maureen McGrath, executive directory of Umatilla Morrow County Head Start.

The ten-hour daily schedule is carefully planned to provide a balanced learning environment that is also fun. Staff work with parents to develop individual goals for each child in areas such as literacy, math, social, emotional, and physical growth.

“She comes home everyday with something new that she’s learned. She’s learning how to socialize as well as advance her knowledge and work in a structured setting. So, it prepares her for going into the public school system. It’s been wonderful,” shares parent, Marie Cain.

The center provides year-round consistent, reliable child care and preschool for working parents, regardless of weather and school closures.



“As we talked with our industries, one of the pressing needs that came to the forefront was the need for affordable, consistent educational opportunities for our youth,” says Ryan Neal, executive director at the Port of Morrow. “Through our partnerships and collaborations, we have been able to accomplish that by opening the BILC center. We couldn’t do it without each and every industry partner that has contributed.”

For more information about how to enroll your child, call 541.616.0000 or visit the website: <https://umchs.com/bilc>

New Staff Highlights

Marti Campos

Although not a new face at the Port of Morrow, Marti Campos has accepted the role as Safety Specialist, a new full-time position. With background experience in management, Campos joined Port staff in January 2018 and has worked several assignments, including carpenter and equipment/crane operator.



After helping with the construction of the Neal Early Learning Center and the installation of the Madison water line, he took on the position of railroad inspector apprentice and water department apprentice.

He shares, “Because of my previous job in management, safety for co-workers has always been a priority.”

Raeanne Slaght

Raeanne Slaght joined the SAGE Center as the new education coordinator on December 2.

“I’m most excited about working with the younger generations and sharing my passion about agriculture with them. I am also looking forward to building strong connections within the community and helping to get the word out about the SAGE Center,” she shares.



Slaght was born and raised in Culver, Oregon and recently moved to Echo. She grew up raising livestock and was heavily involved in 4-H and FFA. She graduated in 2019 from Oregon State University with a bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Sciences with minors in Soils, Crops, and Business, and is currently pursuing her master’s degree in Soil Fertility from South Dakota State University.

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Census data impacts funding for things like:

- > Education programs and grants
- > Public transportation
- > Medicare and Medicaid
- > Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- > Libraries
- > Community centers
- > School meal programs
- > Parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities

In Morrow County, the Oregon Trail Library District will have computers available at all locations for anyone who needs access to take the 2020 Census and staff available to help with questions.

Respond your way to the 2020 Census.

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding. All of them are easy!



The 2020 Census marks the first time you will be invited to respond online—even on your mobile device. The online form is available in many different languages. Visit [2020CENSUS.GOV](https://2020census.gov) for more information about responding online.

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