

Morrow Re:Port

Tidewater Barge Service Expansion

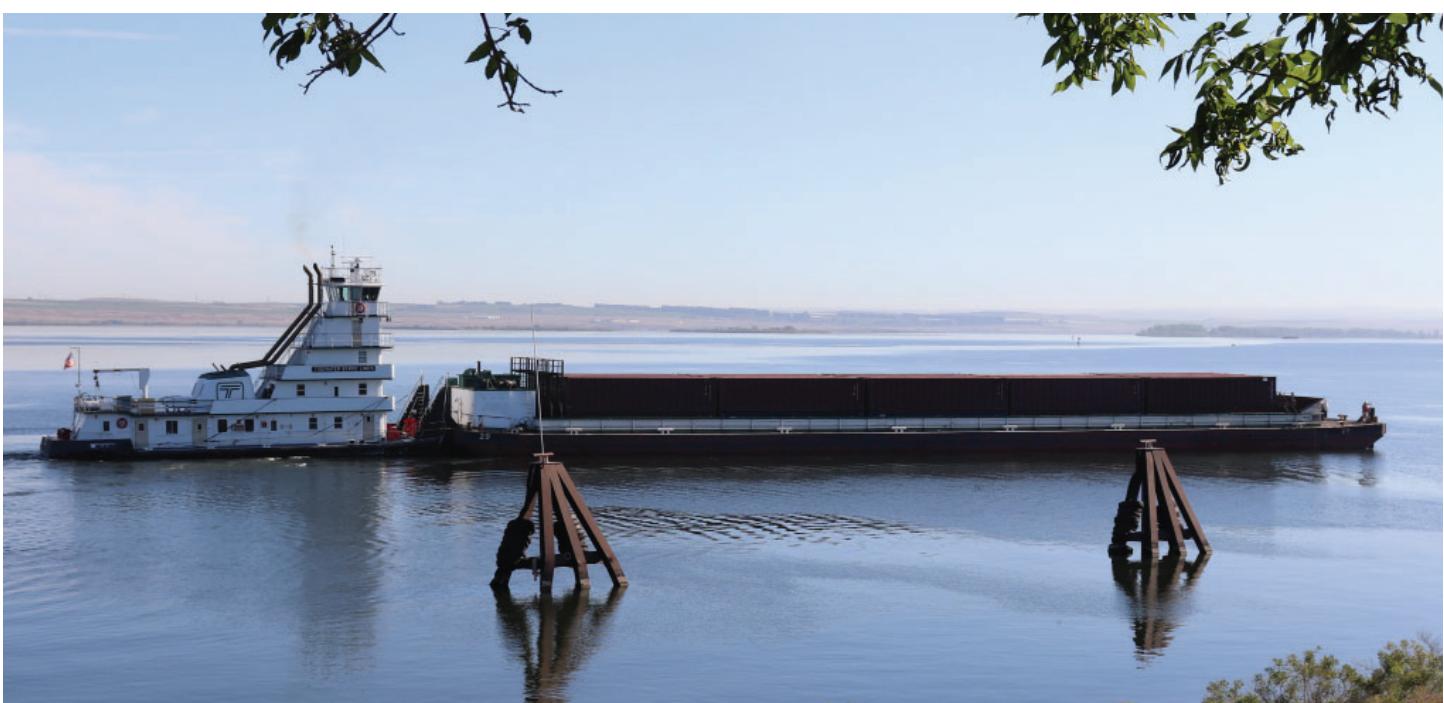
This summer the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD) announced that Tidewater Barge Lines, Inc. was awarded a \$3.2 million federal grant through the Marine Highway Program.

“This Marine Highway grant award allows us to acquire a new barge specially designed for expanding container service from our facilities in Vancouver to the Port of Morrow,” said Tidewater Barge Lines, Inc. President and CEO Todd Busch. “By utilizing the Columbia River’s underused ‘Marine Highway 84’, this expansion in service will provide benefits throughout the Pacific Northwest by mitigating highway congestion, reducing air emissions, and increasing economic activity.”

The Marine Highway Program seeks to expand the use of America’s navigable waters, especially where water-based transport is the most efficient, effective, and sustainable option. When it comes to moving commodities, barge is the most efficient method of

transportation. One 4-barge tow transports as much cargo as 538 large semi-trucks or 140 rail cars. It also uses almost four times less fuel than semi-trucks. The new Tidewater barge is being designed to accommodate both 48- and 40-foot containers and it is the first in Tidewater’s fleet to fit the larger size containers. After completing the design engineering process, the project will be sent out to potential build yards for bids with an expected completion date by the end of 2021.

“As the Project Sponsor, the Port was proud to support this grant request, which hinged on the strong public-private partnership between our community and Tidewater Barge Lines. I would like to thank Senators Wyden and Merkley and Congressman Walden for their help securing this grant and for their continued support of our efforts to expand barge service along the Columbia River,” said Port of Morrow Executive Director Ryan Neal.



The Tidewater tug Defiance navigates a loaded container barge into the facilities at the Port of Morrow.

COVID-19 Update

Essential industries are a cornerstone at the Port of Morrow. As such, the Port of Morrow is committed to the health and well-being of our employees and our region. We are diligently working together with businesses, industries, and communities to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by following safety protocols at all our sites, providing remote access to meetings, and limiting public access to facilities.

The SAGE Center remains closed until further notice. The annual Morrow County Harvest Festival and the Winter Market have been cancelled. Please follow the SAGE Center Facebook page for updates on reopening.

Marker 40 Golf Club remains open with the following protocols in place: hand sanitizer is available at entrances and the front counter; guests are asked to utilize the outdoor space instead of the clubhouse and to wear masks when it's necessary to be indoors; all frequently touched surfaces are regularly sanitized; and all carts and rental equipment are fogged and disinfected on return from usage. We appreciate all players taking responsibility for their own safety and being considerate of those around them.

The Port of Morrow Riverfront Center is closed to the public except by appointment.

We are in this together, Morrow County!



**Wear it for
each other**

Marker 40 Golf Club: A Hit On the Screws



Open daily from 7 AM to 7 PM, Marker 40 Golf Club is golfer-friendly and accessible to players of all skill levels.

When the Port of Morrow purchased the Willow Run Golf Course this summer, it was not on a whim. “The Port of Morrow has engaged in conversations over the years about the benefits of a new golf course in Boardman,” recalls Port of Morrow Economic Development Director Lisa Mitteldorf. “The chance to purchase Willow Run Golf Course was the perfect opportunity to continue the legacy and vision of Dallas Wilson and to maintain this facility as a recreational asset for our community and region.”

In 1972, Dallas Wilson, a passionate golfer, founded Wilson’s Willow Run Golf Course on his family’s homestead property just outside of Boardman. The compact course he designed featured 9 holes with a dual-tee system and two additional greens that allowed for an 18-hole option. Wilson operated the course until it was purchased by Rod and Kenna Punches in 2004. The Punches continued to maintain, improve, and operate the public course until placing it for sale in 2019.

After purchasing the course in August 2020, the Port introduced an official name change and rebranding to Marker 40 Golf Club in September. Its new designation is inspired by the mile marker 40 sign located on the Columbia River at Boardman, a landmark that is unique to the community.

“I’m excited to see an establishment that’s been in Boardman for so many years receive a new brand,” says Torrie Griggs, executive director of the Boardman Chamber of Commerce. “The golf course will continue to grow and thrive alongside our developing community. It is a great recreational opportunity for both residents and visitors to Boardman.”

Additional changes have been taking place within the golf course. Crews have pruned trees and brush along Toms Camp Road and throughout the grounds. Lavatories have been renovated, sand traps are more clearly defined, and irrigation has been upgraded to an efficient timer system. Upcoming changes include ongoing landscaping improvements and replacing bridges that cross the stream and pond.

Look for long-standing annual events to continue. The 49th Annual West Winds Golf Tournament took place at the end of August with 19 teams competing and two night-golf events occurred in October.

Connect with us via email at marker40gc@portofmorrow.com, our website www.marker40.com, or find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/marker40gc.

Columbia Works Internship Program

By Guest Author Morgan Orem, Workforce Training Intern

The year 2020 has been full of unexpected changes and a whirlwind of emotions. It's easy to focus on all the negatives COVID-19 has brought with it – remote learning, required face coverings, business shutdowns, event cancellations, and so on. I'll admit that I haven't been the most "positive" this year as my life looked much different than expected. I spent spring and summer term completing my college classes "remotely" and even this fall classes will continue to be online instead of in person. Football season is delayed and there are strict regulations on where we can go and what we can do.

Even in the middle of so many challenges, there are also many positive aspects 2020 has brought. Over the past 6 months, I have spent a lot of time with my family and friends at home and was hired for a great summer internship at the Port of Morrow through the Columbia Works Summer Internship Program. My internship was not something I planned for, and yet, it was one of the best things that has happened to me this year. Although COVID created a roller coaster at times, I was fortunate to experience numerous opportunities for networking and personal growth.

As the Workforce Training Intern, I worked with Workforce Training Manager, Kalie Davis, who made my internship a great experience. She was flexible, creative, and passionate about teaching and providing me with projects. Projects I worked on included Nuts, Bolts, and Thingamajigs Camp, additional development of the Columbia Works Summer Internship Program, updating job openings each month from around the Port, and organizing the virtual career day for all Morrow County high schools.



Students connected with businesses during Virtual Career Day through Google Meets.

The goal of Columbia Works, a new summer internship program for Morrow County, is to grow, support, and sustain a skilled workforce in Morrow County that contributes to individual, community, and state prosperity. The program is a collaboration between Morrow County Chambers of Commerce, Morrow



Orem assists a student with a shop project during the COVID-19 adjusted Nuts, Bolts, and Thingamajigs Camp.

County businesses, and the Port of Morrow.

This was the first summer for the program and, despite the challenges of COVID-19, over 25 internships were offered to high school and college students. During the summer, students gain valuable work experience and participate in Professional Development Workshops. A TEMPO (Time, Efficiency, Management, Prioritization, and Organization) workshop was offered by Beef Northwest and a Personal Finance workshop was presented by Blue Mountain Investment Management, LLC.

Through my internship, I focused on expanding Columbia Works throughout all Morrow County. Kalie and I spent a day in South Morrow County reaching out to various businesses regarding summer internships.

As a Morrow County native and college student, I see the value in offering internships in our region. Internships provide opportunities and encourage students to return to the area to work over the summer, and potentially, permanently after their education or training is complete. It also attracts students from out of the area to come to Morrow County. Speaking personally, it provided a chance for me to gain valuable workplace experience, develop my skills as a young professional, and explore career paths. I never imagined I'd be working in Workforce Development, but I have discovered that it is an interesting career option and something I could easily see myself working in.

If you are interested in offering or applying for an internship, more information can be found at www.columbiaworks.org.

Morgan Orem is a 2018 graduate of Lone High School and is currently attending Oregon State University majoring in Agricultural Sciences.



Discover, Learn & Play!

PORT OF MORROW



SAGE CENTER
BOARDMAN, OR

The SAGE Center is temporarily closed to the public in response to Governor Kate Brown's state-wide restrictions issued on March 12, 2020 to limit the spread of COVID-19.

In the meantime, we've assembled some great websites so you can explore energy and agriculture from your home!

Visit us online at www.visitsage.com
www.facebook.com/SAGECenterOR

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

www.marker40gc.com




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MARKER 40
 GOLF CLUB



www.facebook.com/marker40gc

Neal Early Learning Center Expansion Nears Completion

As construction concludes, plans are being made to move in to the 9,600 square-foot expansion. Programs operating in the new wing include: a new Prenatal to Three program, pre-k Migrant ESD, and the Boardman Industry Learning Center (BILC).

Additionally, Boardman Foods has started the process of opening a certified childcare program for children ages 0-3 as well as expanded options for school-age children. The program is expected to open as early as January with hours Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Parents interested in this program should contact Boardman Foods through email at brenda@boardmanfoods.com.

Umatilla-Morrow Head Start manages the Neal Early Learning Center that serves children ages birth through preschool through multiple programs and agency partnerships. Parents can get more information about programs by calling 541-564-6878 or by visiting www.umchs.org.



UMCHS, the Morrow County Health Department, and the Office of Child Care have created and implemented extensive and thorough COVID cautionary protocols, including, but not limited to, consistent child/staff cohorts, temperature checks, and rigorous cleaning protocols. Reporting of any and all exposure is handled with the Health Department with closures and notification occurring as required.