

# Morrow Re:Port

## North and South Morrow County Developments

Multiple projects are under way at Port industrial parks. At the South Morrow Industrial Park in Heppner, the Port is seeking a re-designation of the flood hazard areas from FEMA. Additionally, a new water system has been designed and will be installed spring 2021. Industrial lots are being partitioned and one of the buildings will be subdivided.

“The Port continues to make investments in south Morrow County to make the industrial park a more viable and attractive location with upgraded assets,” says Ryan Neal, executive director.

The Airport Industrial Park at Boardman is also seeing utility improvements with the installation of a new industrial well. The well replaces a previous one that was problematic. It will improve the water availability for potential future development.

“The new well will be capable of producing 2,300 gallons per minute,” reports Lisa Mittelsdorf, director of economic development. “The Port is excited about making infrastructure improvements to the Airport Industrial Park. The Port owns 2,700 acres of property south of the freeway just west of Tower Road, which includes 880 acres of Airport Industrial land.”

In the East Beach Industrial Park, the rail expansion project is complete and the final inspection is pending by Union Pacific. The new track improves capacity for unit trains (a train in which all cars carry the same commodity), improves service and rail operations, provides infrastructure for future development, and reduces traffic delays on Columbia Boulevard.



*Earthmovers level ground at the flex space construction site*

Ground work has begun for the construction of a new flex space building on Lewis and Clark Drive. The new building will be 16,000 square feet divided into four partitions with space that’s flexible to use for office or warehousing.

“This new flex space is a needed resource for businesses working at the Port,” says Mark Patton, chief operations officer. “Many contractors, for example, have had to locate elsewhere in the region. This gives them an option for a base of operation close to their job sites.”

One new data center campus is also scheduled for construction in the East Beach Industrial Park beginning in 2021. The expansion will continue to bolster diversity in the region’s economy.

## Strategic Business Plan approved

The Port of Morrow has updated its Strategic Business Plan and Capital Improvement Plan. The process began in October 2019 and builds on previous planning efforts and the Strategic Plan created in 2013. Staff, the Port commission, and stakeholders provided input to address strengths and challenges faced by the Port. This thorough review has resulted in renewed mission and goals to define the Port’s future.

The updated plan was prepared by WSP USA Inc. in association with the FCS Group and with assistance from Business Oregon. The plan is available for download on the Port of Morrow website.



*Pictured below: Morrow County high school students get hands-on experience in career fields they are interested in during the 2019-2020 school year.*



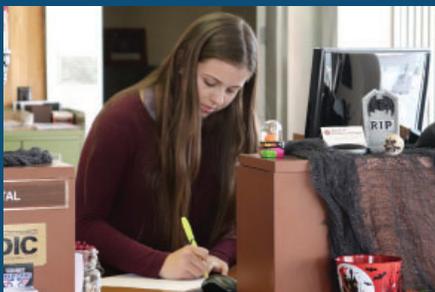
*Alyssa, Irrigon High School  
Healthcare  
at Columbia River Health*



*Edwin, Riverside High School  
Information Technology  
at Port of Morrow*



*Tryston, Heppner High School  
Metal Fabrication  
at Blue Mountain Manufacturing*



*Eva, Ione Community School  
Finance  
at Bank of Eastern Oregon*

## **Morrow County High School Internship Positions Open for 2021-2022**

The Morrow County High School Internship Program is open and accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year. Over 50 internships are available across all Morrow County communities. All sophomores and juniors are invited to apply. The application period is open March 1 through April 16, 2021.

This is a unique opportunity to gain valuable work experience, get paid, and receive high school credit. Students are encouraged to explore internships related to their career interest. Internships are available in multiple sectors including:

- healthcare
- finance
- agriculture
- manufacturing
- education
- maintenance
- mechanics
- information technology
- and more



All positions are paid minimum wage and students can work up to 15 hours each week.

“We appreciate all of the partnerships that make this program possible,” says Kalie Davis, director of workforce development. “Employers across Morrow County are forward thinking and understand the benefits of connecting with students getting ready to enter the workforce. In addition, we have the benefit of working with Intermountain ESD to ensure employers have the opportunity to provide these experiences without additional barriers.”

All internship positions are posted on the Intermountain Education Service District Career Website <https://intermountain.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>

Students who have questions can reach out to Kim Rill, Education and Workforce Training Coordinator at 541-371-0980 or via email [kimberlyr@portofmorrow.com](mailto:kimberlyr@portofmorrow.com).

Businesses may contact Kalie Davis, Director of Workforce Development at 541-571-1624 or email [kalied@portofmorrow.com](mailto:kalied@portofmorrow.com).

The program is a partnership between Morrow County School District, Ione School District, InterMountain Education Service District (IMESD), and the Port of Morrow. Funding for the program comes from the Morrow Education Foundation via the Columbia River Enterprise Zone.

---

## New staff in the spotlight

Travis Aker joins the Port of Morrow Warehousing as the Operations Manager. He brings 15 years' warehousing experience with duties ranging from sweeper to leadership roles. He says several things peaked his interest about the position in Boardman. Aker heard how the Port is involved and committed to helping the region. "That's important to me," he shares. "Boardman is a very tight-knit community. Everyone helps each other out. It's important to me to work with people who are going to help those around them succeed and I feel very fortunate to be a part of that."



Jeffrey Hampton started in January as the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technician, a new position in the Port's engineering department. Hampton previously worked for the City of Indianapolis. He has had a long-term interest in industrial technologies, including computer aided drafting, passive solar design, architecture, and engineering. He found the position listed online and was attracted by the inclusion of field work and system development. "I am looking forward to the opportunity and challenge of developing GIS for the Port," Hampton says, "and also exploring a different part of the country."



Edwin Pacheco joins the Port as a Helpdesk Technician. Pacheco has lived in Boardman all his life and started with the Port of Morrow during the inaugural year of the Morrow County High School Internship Program. "I had the opportunity to learn from someone who is a professional and get practical experience," says Pacheco. "Because of the internship, I discovered that I wanted to pursue the IT field as my career." Pacheco graduated from Riverside High School in 2020 and is currently enrolled in BMCC's Data Center Technician program.



Rob Schultz has been an IT Consultant with the Port of Morrow since 2019. Raised in Heppner, he has 19 years of military service working in information technology. Schultz states that he is excited about working hands-on with technology again and is thankful to be close to home and working in a field he loves. Now retired from the military, Schultz began his full-time role as Server Systems Administrator in early 2021.



Kimberly Rill fills a new position at the Port of Morrow as the Education and Workforce Training Coordinator. Rill grew up in Hermiston and attended Eastern Oregon University. She most recently was the CEO for the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce. "This position intrigued me because it's a bridge between education and business and a great way to encourage local students to return to Morrow County for their career," shares Rill. "I'm also really excited about the SAGE Center and finding creative ways to engage schools and encourage education about agriculture, logistics, and industries located at the Port. I think it's an exciting time to be a part of the Port of Morrow with many future developments on the horizon."



The Port also welcomes new staff at the Golf Club, Maintenance, and Warehouse facilities:

### **Marker 40 Golf Club**

Emma Mueller

### **Maintenance**

Forrest Dyer

Cody Zimmerly

### **Warehouse**

Juan Garcia

Payton Lehman

Kenia Maldonado

Adrian Talamantes

Alexander Valle

Silvestre Vazquez Olguin

Roberto Vazquez

---

# Discover, Learn & Play!



The SAGE Center is temporarily closed to the public to limit the spread of COVID-19. As numbers continue to drop in Oregon, we are considering how we can safely reopen. Follow us on Facebook or check our website for more information about opening. We look forward to seeing visitors again!

Visit us online at [www.visitsage.com](http://www.visitsage.com)  
[www.facebook.com/SAGECenterOR](https://www.facebook.com/SAGECenterOR)

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

A background image for the Marker 40 Golf Club advertisement, showing a golf club head and a golf bag on a green field.

**Open Daily 7 AM to 7 PM**  
9-Hole | 1,803 Yards | 31 Par  
78873 Toms Camp Road, Boardman

[www.marker40gc.com](http://www.marker40gc.com)  
[www.facebook.com/marker40gc](https://www.facebook.com/marker40gc)

The logo for Marker 40 Golf Club, featuring a green triangle with a white "40" inside, and two golf clubs crossed behind it.

**MARKER 40**  
GOLF CLUB

The logo for the Port of Morrow, featuring a stylized blue wave and the text "PORT OF MORROW".

## Raising a FFA Greenhouse

The Port of Morrow has donated labor to assist the Morrow County FFA Chapter at Riverside High School in the construction of a greenhouse. The new addition will enable hands-on classes in plant science and brings to fruition the goal of being a comprehensive program that encompasses the major subject areas of agriculture, especially those important to Oregon.

“The Riverside FFA Chapter, agriculture students, and teacher are extremely grateful for the hard work and generosity of our community. From the many individuals who purchased items at our 1st and 2nd Morrow County FFA Alumni Auction, the BCDA allocating funds for the project, and the generous donation of a construction crew from the Port of Morrow. We would not have been able to grow this program and complete this project without that support. I cannot wait for the future learning and opportunities you all have given to our students.” shares Riverside Ag Sciences Teacher Madison Hynes.



*The FFA greenhouse under construction  
in early February*

The greenhouse was purchased with fundraising proceeds provided by the Advisory Committee and Morrow County FFA Alumni and split between the four FFA chapters in Morrow County.