

SAGE Center joins statewide agriculture celebration

The Sustainable Agriculture and Energy Center celebrates Morrow County agriculture daily. So, when the question arose to join a statewide agricultural education marketing effort, the decision to participate was simple.

The SAGE Center focuses on telling Morrow County's agriculture story and is now able to extend that reach thanks to Celebrate Oregon Agriculture, an educational marketing campaign. The celebration is run by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and is funded by a USDA Specialty Crop Grant and industry partners.

The educational campaign share many values as both are working to elevate awareness about the industry, provide insight about how agriculture contributes to the economy, and help consumers understand their connection to agriculture.

"Everyone is interested in where their food comes from, how it is safely processed, and where it ends up," Kalie Davis, SAGE Center manager said. "Because we can't get in to processing facilities, this gives us a way to show what's going on in a fun and interactive way."

During a visit to the SAGE Center, visitors can take a hot air balloon ride, drive a tractor, and milk a cow – all simulated, of course. Visitors also see how a potato becomes a French fry and where products made in Boardman ultimately end up on the "Boardman to the World," map.

According to a 2013 economic impact study of the port, approximately 4,000 people work at port-related businesses, which accounts for 59 percent of all employment in Morrow County.

Erick Garman, Oregon Department of Agriculture Trade Development Manager, said Celebrate Oregon Agriculture's partners are organizations that have a true commitment to the state's agriculture.

"The SAGE Center and the Port of Morrow are a really important part of the Columbia Plateau when it comes to agriculture," Garman said. "The SAGE Center is on the list because it is an organization in a part of the state that we want to reach out to and is doing really good things to promote agriculture."

Celebrate Oregon Agriculture launched with KATU-TV in July 2012. The state agriculture department then adopted the name and was able to supply some resources, work with industries and other agricultural organizations, Garman said. As a year-round campaign, the celebration has different themes throughout



SAGE Center photo
The SAGE Center recently joined Celebrate Oregon Agriculture to provide Morrow County agricultural information to a statewide audience.

the year featuring various Oregon products or the state's agriculture industry.

The campaign will help the SAGE Center take its local message statewide and specifically to the Portland market. This will show statewide consumers how Eastern Oregon agriculture impacts the local, state, national and global economies.

"It is important for the SAGE Center to be involved in Oregon agriculture because we are a unique facility that has the ability to showcase food from the farm to the table," Davis said.

Go to <http://visitsage.com> for more information.

Celebrate Oregon Agriculture uses television commercials, long-form video segments on KATU's AM Northwest, print publications, and digital platforms with a blog, Facebook and KATU's website. Learn more at <http://celebrateorag.wpengine.com/>.

Port of Morrow Warehousing doubling size in expansion



Anna Aylett photo
Port of Morrow Warehousing opened June 2015 and by August of that year was full with requests for expansion. The expansion is set to be finished by October 2016 or sooner.

After the Port of Morrow Warehousing grand opening in June 2015, the warehouse was full by August and management was receiving requests for more space. The warehouse serves four customers within the Port of Morrow and several others in Southwest Washington; the decision was made to expand.

The expansion project was designed and is being managed by Port of Morrow personnel.

"Ground work was started in January and February of this year and our completion goal is October 1, 2016 or before," said Jim Barnes, Port of Morrow Warehousing manager. "Our expansion has required updating and enhancements to our warehouse operating system – ASCtrac – which included upgrades to our order pro-

cessing, scheduling, receiving and inventory programs."

The expansion will have a newer evaporator system, called a Penthouse design. The evaporator system is part of the refrigeration equipment for the warehouse. The Penthouse design places the evaporators on the roof along with the refrigerant lines making this a more efficient and safer design. The current system is a hanging system that is suspended from the ceiling supports inside the warehouse.

Other energy efficient items include high-speed roll-up doors, Variable Frequency Drives on drive motors and a completely automated refrigeration control system. Port of Morrow Warehousing prides itself on efficiency by



Anna Aylett photo
A construction employee works on a beam on what will become the truck dock on the Port of Morrow Warehousing expansion.



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taking mid-20 degree Fahrenheit product to less than 10 degrees in just a few days without separating and floor fanning the product.

Upon completion POM Warehousing will have 23 truck docks and will be able to spot seven jumbo rail cars at a time. The facility will be able to handle over 80 trucks and up to 12 jumbo rail cars per day. The expansion will double the size of the warehouse to 220,000 square feet, and holdings will increase to about 85 million pounds.

“Service is all we have to sell and we take pride in setting and maintaining the highest warehousing standards for our staff and customers,” Barnes said. “This past year we had numerous Customer, Safety, Compliance and Sanitation audits. One of our top achievements was scoring 995 out of 1,000 on our required Food Safety and General Management Practices Audit by AIB.”



Anna Aylett photo
Above: The Port of Morrow Warehousing expansion is being added on to the east end of the existing facility that opened June 2015. The expansion will not only double the warehouse in size to 220,000 square feet, but will also increase capacity to about 85 million pounds of product.

Left: Jumbo rail cars will be loaded from the rail dock under construction. The new rail dock will allow the warehousing operation to handle up to 12 cars per day.

Meet the Port of Morrow student employees

Each summer, the Port of Morrow hires college students to work in a variety of jobs to earn money for the coming school year

Each year, local students gain valuable work experience during summer months at the Port of Morrow. This year there are five college students working for the Port of Morrow. Students sometimes also work during other school breaks if they are available.

Students perform a variety of tasks for the Port of Morrow main office, maintenance shop, and the SAGE Center.

Edith Velasco

A 2016 graduate of Riverside High School, Velasco is filling a few roles at the port this summer. She is working with the engineering department and at the SAGE Center. Velasco has worked with the SAGE Center previously assisting with events, school visits and anywhere help is needed.

She is attending Oregon State University this fall to major in civil engineering.

Sami Hernandez

Hernandez has worked for the Port of Morrow for the past two years. During the school year she works part time and in the summer she works as a full-time temporary employee.

“I do a little bit of everything,” Hernandez said. “I’ve had experience running equipment, laying pipe in the

**Edith Velasco****Sami Hernandez****Arrow Corpus****Jason Hendricks****Cisco Nunez**

ground, I fill in at the SAGE Center when needed and currently, I am a parts runner and have been organizing and cleaning up the shop.”

Hernandez attends college at Blue Mountain Community College and will complete her AAOT this fall. She plans to continue her studies at Washington State University in civil engineering.

Cisco Nunez

This is his second summer working at the port as a laborer. Nunez works on pipe projects, landscaping, pulling wells, painting and cleaning irrigation sprinklers.

Nunez will return to school at the end of September after working at the Port of Morrow for over three

months.

Nunez is in school at Mount Hood Community College and will continue his studies to become a radiologist.

Arrow Corpus

Corpus is working toward his bachelors degree, studying business at Dixie State University in St. George, Utah.

Corpus also works as a laborer with the maintenance shop. His duties also include

working on pipe projects, landscaping, pulling wells, painting, and cleaning irrigation sprinklers.

Jason Hendricks

Hendricks works in the accounting department at the Port of Morrow. He has worked at the port for several summers as an undergraduate studying business administration with an emphasis on accounting at Eastern Oregon University. In August, Hendricks will begin a graduate program at Boise State University to obtain his Masters of Science in Accountancy through a one-year program.

Port of Morrow upgrades website

Those interested in the happenings at the Port of Morrow now have a simpler way to access public information via the new and improved website at www.portofmorrow.com.

The upgrade was funded through a port marketing grant from the State of Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority.

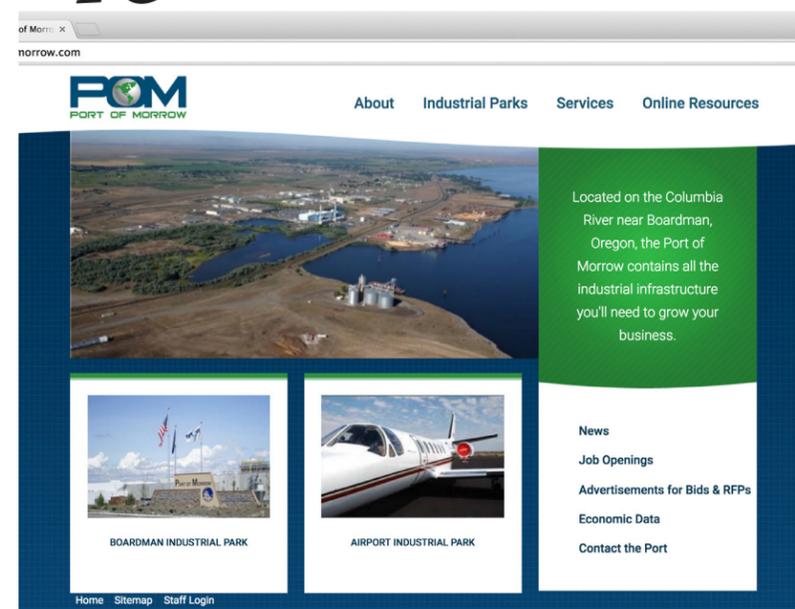
On the new website, users can easily access information about the port's budget, audit reports, advertisements for bids and requests for proposal, economic data, and contact information for all port facilities. Find information about each of the port's industrial parks, job openings, and previous issues of the newsletter.

Lisa Mittelsdorf, Port of Morrow economic development director, said the website was fully funded through the grant in conjunction with cameras, videos, printed materials, and additional marketing items.

Users can also find information about Port of Morrow Warehousing by clicking the “About” tab.

Videos explaining various Port of Morrow services can be found on the new site. These videos give more information on utilities, financing services, and transportation.

Contact information for all Port of Morrow divisions can also be found on the site as well as Port of Morrow Warehousing information. The ware-

**Port of Morrow home page.**

housing page provides detailed information for prospective customers as well as driving directions leading to the facility located in the East Beach Industrial Park.