

SAGE Center to serve as Oregon Welcome Center



The Port of Morrow's SAGE Center has partnered with Travel Oregon to serve as one of Oregon's eight official welcome centers.

As an Oregon Welcome Center, the SAGE Center will provide visitor information to people from across the country and around the world who are visiting Oregon. SAGE Center manager, Kalie Davis, is looking forward to reaching new visitors. "As an Oregon Welcome Center the SAGE Center can provide helpful visitor information while showcasing our regions agriculture and energy production."

Travel Oregon reached out to the SAGE Center to serve as an Oregon Welcome Center after making a site visit this spring. The SAGE Center was a good fit

due to the high visibility along interstate 84, and the SAGE Center's creative way of showcasing information about Eastern Oregon's agriculture industries.

As an Oregon Welcome Center, the SAGE Center will receive additional signage along Interstate 84, and contact information in all Oregon Welcome Center publications. "We are delighted to serve in this capacity to help all visitors coming to Oregon" Davis said.

The SAGE Center is located at 101 Olson Road in Boardman Oregon. For more information or questions please call 541-481-7243 or please check our website for hours and to view our schedule of upcoming events www.visitsage.com



Early Learning Center



It is likely you have seen the development going on around the SAGE Center. The Port of Morrow broke ground on the Early Learning Center earlier this year and it is scheduled to open this fall.

Officials hope to host various programs and services for both younger children and family education in the future. Morrow County School District will have non-income based public preschool for 3-5 year olds and Head Start will continue to provide their income based services. In addition a special education preschool program run by IMESD will be offered. There could also be resources for families, possibly parenting classes or nutrition classes in partnership with other agencies.

The building is coming together very quickly. Framing was complete in May and the plumbing, electrical & HVAC were completed in June.

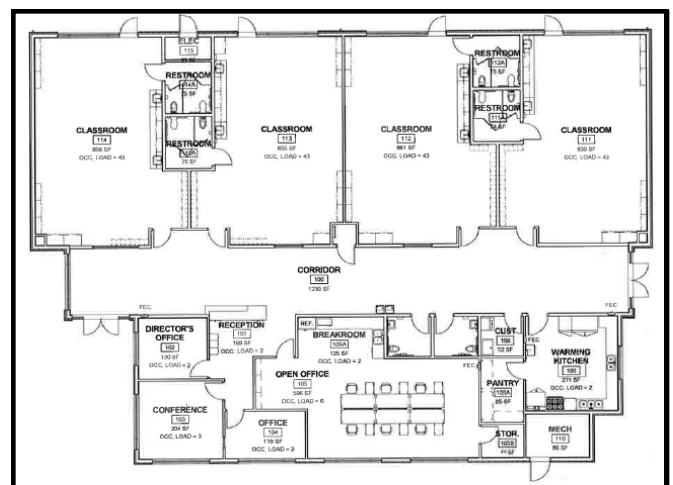
Currently the work being completed is focused on the inside of the structure. Walls and ceilings are being finished. The playground and landscaping will start soon.

Enrollment for this facility has already been underway. The Early Learning Center coupled with the BMCC Early Childhood Education Center will provide services to children birth to 5 years old. Programs include pre-kindergarten programs and educational services for families. The center will be managed by Umatilla-Morrow County Head Start.

For more information and enrollment questions please contact Head Start at 541-564-6878 or log onto www.umchs.org

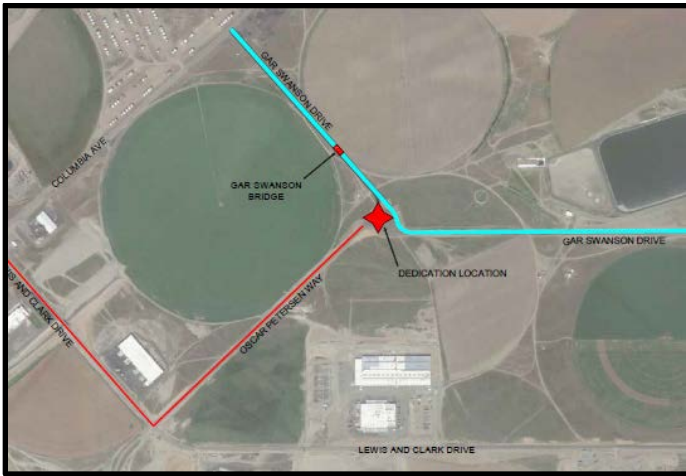
Building standards are set to accommodate a scale appropriate to preschool students. The 7,500 sf building will feature four classrooms with large windows, wide corridors with natural lighting, child-sized sinks and other facilities such as offices and conference area, off-street parking, bus loading/unloading and natural featured outdoor play areas.

This project was developed after a brainstorming session approximately two years ago between the Port of Morrow, Intermountain Education Service District (IMESD), Morrow County School District, Blue Mountain Community College and Umatilla Morrow County Head Start (UMCHS).



Early Learning Center Floor Plan

Gar Swanson road dedication



There has been lots of activity around the Port of Morrow with all its various road projects going on. The Port of Morrow has been working on an access road that breaks off of Internet Parkway leading out to Columbia Avenue. The road consists of a roundabout and a bridge. The last section of road is still under construction and is set to be completed in September.



Construction of Gar Swanson Bridge

This road has been named Gar Swanson Drive, in honor of one of the founding members of the Port of Morrow commission. A dedication was held on July 12th to honor Gar Swanson for his dedication and vision which helped to set the Port of Morrow on its journey to what it is now.



Pictured above: Jim Swanson & Gary Neal

Many of Gar Swanson's family members were present to accept this honor in his name. Among other things it was said that Gar was an innovator and visionary. He and the other founding

commissioners worked countless hours establishing a solid foundation for the Port of Morrow to grow on. He was instrumental in organizing the Ports 4,000 acre waterfront industrial park. He served 16 years as a Port of Morrow commissioner.

Current Port of Morrow and longtime commissioner, Larry Lindsey had this to say about Gar, "He was inspiring and a true visionary". Port commissioner Marv Padberg said he was very honored to be a part of something that men like Gar Swanson had the foresight so long ago to set in motion.

Pipeline Project Update

The Port of Morrow has also been very busy with their wastewater land application system. Construction of this expansion started in September of 2016. 15 miles of pipe have been installed, ranging from the Port's East Beach out to Hwy 730 then across Interstate 84 and then runs down Pole line and out the expansion property.



This project is expected to add over 6000 acres into the Ports land application program. Pressure testing has been completed, the flush was a success and the Port of Morrow is now in the process of running water to Madison on a limited basis.

Changes in the Port

Kalie Davis has been the Sage Center Manager since its opening in 2012. Kalie has been instrumental in the Sage Centers outreach and success. She will be transitioning into a new role with the Port as the new Workforce Development Coordinator. In this role she will be a liaison working with industry and educators to provide needed training for employers and for people seeking opportunities within the various Port industries.

With that change the Port of Morrow will be welcoming a new Sage Center manager, Heather Cannell. Heather comes to the Port of Morrow from the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center in Hermiston. Heather brings with her an extensive background that will no doubt continue the Sage Centers outreach and success.

The Port will also be welcoming back Boardman native Gabe Hansen. Gabe was an accounting assistant for the Port during his summer years of college. He joins us from Underwood Fruit and Warehouse out of Yakima. He will be the new Assistant Controller. We look forward to all the possibilities with the new additions.

POM Retirement

The Port of Morrow will be saying farewell and Happy Retirement to 27yr Port of Morrow veteran, Doug Sandlin. Doug has been an asset to the Port of Morrow since 1990.



Doug has been one of the equipment operators for many years at the Port of Morrow. But the past couple of years Doug has been responsible for the inspection and maintenance of the 13 miles of rail track running through

the Port. Doug has seen the Port grow a lot over the years. He notes that he has appreciated the opportunities and experiences he has gained during his years at the Port of Morrow but says it's the people at the Port that he will miss the most.

Thank you Doug for you many years of service!



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