

**BOARDMAN**

# City announces chamber award winners

East Oregonian

Recognizing their long-term commitment to the community, Ed and Frances Glenn received the Pioneer Award during the Boardman Chamber of Commerce awards banquet.

Originally from Union County, the couple moved to Morrow County in the early 1970s, raising their family in Boardman. Frances was an educator and Ed an attorney.

During one of the frequent periods when Boardman had no local newspaper, Ed wrote, edited and published a brief newsletter for the community. He served briefly on the city planning commission in 1997 and began more than eight years of service on the Boardman City Council in 2003. He was mayor from 2005-08. After a brief break, Glenn was appointed to fill a vacancy on the council in 2010, serving until 2012.

Frances has always been beside Ed, encouraging him from behind the scenes. She was a compassionate and nurturing educator and a great asset to the Boardman community, a nomination letter said.

Others receiving recognition included: Penny Jurney was recognized as Citizen of the Year for her spirit of giving in helping organize the Community Thanksgiving Dinner each year. A nomination letter said Jurney is the kind of person the award was created to recognize.

Maria Richards received Business Person of the Year. Owner of Boardman Hardware, Richards has volunteered with many programs and events, including youth soccer, Cinco de Mayo, Christmas lighting and fundraising for the new Riverside High School track.



Frances and Ed Glenn receive the Pioneer Award from Don Russell during the Boardman Chamber of Commerce awards banquet.

Boardman Police Chief Rick Stokoe received the Fire and Safety Award. With more than 25 years of law enforcement experience, Stokoe has headed up the Boardman Police Department since 2011. In addition to his job, the chief is active with youth sports and community activities.

Sam Cornelius, a language arts teacher, received the Educator of the Year. Nominated by his principal, Marie Shimer, he is said to be an innovative and energetic teacher that gives his students 100 percent.

Edith Velasco, a senior at Riverside

High School, received the Youth Award. She has volunteered at the Boardman chamber since she was 13 years old and now works there part-time. In addition, she plays soccer, is active in multiple clubs and volunteers in the community.

With a French romantic theme, the event was held Feb. 12 at the Port of Morrow. More than \$1,000 was raised from auctioning off the table centerpieces.

For more information about Boardman chamber events and programs, contact Emily Waite, executive director, at 541-481-3014 or emily@boardman-chamber.org.

**PENDLETON**

# Report: Abatements create 300-plus jobs

East Oregonian

Temporarily cutting taxes is an effective way of creating jobs in Pendleton.

That was the gist of a Monday report prepared by Pendleton Economic Development Director Steve Chrisman, who called the Pendleton/Pilot Rock Enterprise Zone the city's "most powerful tool for attracting new companies and encouraging local expansion."

The Pendleton/Pilot Rock Enterprise Zone is one of 69 enterprise zones in Oregon, which completely abates property taxes for qualified businesses in exchange for new jobs or increased productivity.

"Enterprise Zone activity from 2013-2015 was the busiest since the zone was created," Chrisman wrote. "The city saw almost every major private sector employer expand in the time span. Not all of those expansions qualified for enterprise zone incentives, but there were ten approved applications for a total of \$19,943,346, which

subsequently produced 302 new jobs. Although the city gives up three years of tax revenue, there will be nearly \$20 million in new tax revenue that will come on the rolls over the course of the next three years (2016-2019). The revenue will directly benefit the city of Pendleton and the Pendleton School District."

Five Pendleton businesses have active enterprise zone exemptions — Keystone RV Co., Hill Meat Co., Colby Rocky Mountain Pipe Co. and Pendleton Woolen Mills.

Keystone used three separate exemptions to add 240 jobs to its workforce, comprising almost 80 percent of the new jobs created under Pendleton's enterprise zone program.

Colby Rocky Mountain Pipe used its exemptions to create 36 jobs while Hill Meat agreed to add 26 workers.

The Pendleton Woolen Mills didn't add any new jobs with its exemption, instead using the savings to buy new equipment that increased productivity by 10 percent.

**BRIEFLY**

## Inland chorale sets weekend concerts

A pair of spring concerts are planned this weekend featuring the Inland Northwest Musicians Chorale.

Under the direction of R. Lee Friese, the program includes accompaniment by four strings and a harpsichord for "Psalm Settings, O Praise the Lord, All Ye Nations" by Georg Philipp Telemann; "Kyrie," an African mass accompanied by percussion by Norman Luboff, and "Sine Nomine" by Vaughan Williams, arranged by Earl Rosenberg. Also featured is "Frostiana," seven country songs set to music by Randall Thompson utilizing text written by Robert Frost. The work was commissioned by the town of Amherst, Massachusetts, to celebrate its bicentennial.

The performances are Saturday at 4 p.m. at the Canyon City Community Hall, 129 S. Washington St.; and Sunday at 4 p.m. at Helix Elementary School, 106 Main St.

Formed in 1999, Inland Northwest Musicians provides free live performances throughout rural Eastern Oregon and southeast Washington. The organization's mission is to provide an atmosphere to support musicians in developing their talent.

For more information, contact 541-289-4696, innw@machmedia.net or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.

## Stretching benefits mind and body

PENDLETON — A program designed to lengthen muscles, increase range of motion and relieve stiffness, which energizes the mind and body, is being offered through Pendleton Parks & Recreation.

The stretching class meets Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. The next three-week session begins April 4.

The cost options includes a drop-in fee of \$9 per class, a six-class punch card for \$48 or register for the entire session for \$6.66 per class.

To register, go to www.pendletonparksandrec.com or stop by the parks office, 865 Tutuilla Road. For more information, call 541-276-8100.

**HERMISTON**

# Public works first up for improvement plan

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

The city of Hermiston is setting its sights on the big picture by creating a five-year capital improvement plan.

The plan will outline and prioritize the capital improvement needs for the street department, water department and wastewater department.

Assistant city manager Mark Morgan told the city council Monday that eventually the process could be expanded to include all departments. But while the city was starting from scratch, it would stick to just the public works departments.

He said having all the city's infrastructure needs centralized in one document would help staff and the council better plan for the future.

"Ultimately, whether it's the private sector or the public, investment hates uncertainty," he said.

Morgan said department heads, working in conjunction with city engineer Anderson

## Solar-powered stop signs approved

HERMISTON — Solar-powered stop signs illuminated by LED lights are being installed in four locations in Hermiston.

The Oregon Department of Transportation will install the lighted signs at the corner of Highland Avenue and First Street, Highland and Seventh Street, Orchard Avenue and First Street, and Orchard and Seventh Street.

The department will also upgrade the other signs along Orchard and Highland to meet current size and reflectivity standards. The entire \$71,700 project will be paid for by ODOT.

At a meeting Monday night, city manager Byron Smith said the lights will be similar to the lighted pedestrian-crossing signs installed at crosswalks on Highland near Hermiston High School that remind cars to look for students crossing the road.

When asked whether the school district supported the lighted stop signs near the high school and West Park Elementary, Hermiston School District operations manager Mike Kay said any efforts to improve pedestrian safety there would be helpful.

Perry & Associates, would be asked to contribute to a raw list of projects that would be discussed with the city council in June. The city's infrastructure committee would then work on paring it down to a more realistic size and prioritizing the top needs. The plan would be approved by the city council sometime in the fall, then reviewed and

updated once a year. The creation of a capital improvement plan was one of the top goals identified by the city council during its goal-setting session in 2016, and Mayor David Drotzmann said he was excited to see the process begin. "This is a phenomenal step in the right direction," he said.

# Partners agree on dispatch center funding

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Smaller police and fire agencies will start to shoulder their share of equipment and maintenance costs for the Umatilla County dispatch center next fiscal year.

More than two dozen police, fire and ambulance services use the center for dispatch needs. But the county sheriff's office, along with the police departments of Pendleton and Hermiston, have alone paid for capital expenses at the dispatch center for years. The county's Dispatch Advisory Committee last week determined that will change in the next fiscal cycle.

County Commissioner Bill Elfering formed the committee in 2015 to figure out how to divide dispatch costs. Elfering said the smaller agencies will ramp up payments over four or five years, depending on their individual financial situations, until each is paying a fair percentage. And the larger departments will continue to pay the most because they are the center's biggest users.

"I'm just glad we got to some kind of resolution on the thing," Elfering said.

He also said fire and ambulance services will pay about 10 percent of the total cost — police departments will pay the rest.

The dispatch center this year also needs about \$70,600 in equipment upgrades and

maintenance, including a new computer server. Sheriff Terry Rowan said the county will join with Pendleton and Hermiston to cover the project.

That will zero out the fund, he said. Going forward, Elfering said all agencies will pay into a capital improvement fund.

The sheriff's office also yanked a proposal to ask agencies to fund another dispatcher. Some committee members were skeptical of the need for a new position. Rowan said the dispatch center plans to track staff work hours better, to see if there is a need for another employee.

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Jacob Tyler Jones

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Publishes: May 28<sup>th</sup> in the EO & June 1<sup>st</sup> in the HH

Send in your text and photos to cmcclellan@eastoregonian.com or bring to Chris at the East Oregonian office by May 18<sup>th</sup>.  
Mailing address: Attn: Chris McClellan  
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