

# Rowan edges Lehnert in campaign funds

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Terry Rowan leads the money race in his campaign for a second term as Umatilla County sheriff.

Rowan's campaign reported raising \$14,888.90, including \$1,638.90 in-kind, according to ORESTAR, Oregon Elections System for Tracking and Reporting, the secretary of state's website of campaign finance activity. Challenger Ryan Lehnert, corporal with Pendleton police, reported raising \$13,345, including a \$500 loan to his own campaign.

Rowan received \$500 from the Oregon Realtors Political Action Committee and Hermiston business owners Perry Hawkins, David Smith and John Walchli, among others. Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann gave \$300 to Rowan's effort.

Pendleton resident Jim Humphrey, retired from Oregon State Police, is Lehnert's biggest donor with \$2,000 so far. He also has received \$1,000 donations from four individuals in the Pendleton area — Carol Trumbo, Michael Winks, and Eric and Margaret Anderson of Anderson Seed,

Inc. Carol Trumbo is the wife of John Trumbo, retired Umatilla County sheriff.

Signs and flyers still are the top expenditures for either candidate. Lehnert has spent almost \$2,500 on signs and the like and Rowan more than \$2,900. Rowan, though, has pushed his campaign to the airwaves, with more than \$3,200 for radio ads. Lehnert has bought about \$1,900 in radio ads and more than \$1,600 for postage for mailings.

Lehnert's campaign also reported having \$510.59 cash on hand, while Rowan has \$4,199.54.

The election is Tuesday.

## BOARDMAN

# City considers three-strike nuisance property ordinance

By GEORGE PLAVEN  
East Oregonian

The city of Boardman is considering a three-strike policy aimed at curbing so-called "chronic nuisance" properties in town.

Ordinance 3-2016 would impose fines, penalties and possible closure of properties if certain "nuisance activities" are documented by police at least three times within 90 days. Nuisance activities include a range of crimes, such as: harassment, intimidation, disorderly conduct, assault, trespassing, theft, arson and drug offenses.

Rick Stokoe, Boardman police chief, said the ordinance is based on similar nuisance rules on the books in Pendleton and Hermiston.

"It's an ordinance that's used across the state," Stokoe

said. "We don't have anything on the books like this ... It's another tool in our belt to deal with chronic nuisances."

Boardman City Council approved the first reading of the ordinance Tuesday, and will have a second reading at the council's next meeting Dec. 6.

If passed, once a property is found in violation of the law, Stokoe said he would attempt to meet with the owner or renters to work out some kind of agreement to abate the problem.

"Typically, that's all it takes," he said.

However, if an agreement can't be reached, Stokoe could refer the matter to the city attorney to handle the nuisance. If the court deems the property a chronic nuisance, it could be closed to use and occupancy for at

least 30 days and up to one year.

Property owners and renters could also be fined \$100 per day for each nuisance activity that takes place after authorities declare a chronic nuisance.

"I think (the ordinance) gives us the opportunity to address some of these issues," Stokoe said.

Stokoe said nuisance properties haven't been a major problem in the community so far, but the ordinance would allow the city to be proactive moving forward. The population of Boardman has been trending slightly upward, reaching 3,379 residents in 2013 compared to 2,967 in 2003.

Contact George Plaven at [gplaven@eastoregonian.com](mailto:gplaven@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0825.



Photo contributed by Irina Walker

## Smooth landing

Irrigon resident Irina Walker recently captured this photo of a mallard duck at the McNary Dam Wildlife Refuge in Umatilla.

## UmCo set to exceed 2012 voter turnout

East Oregonian

Umatilla County's voter turnout is on track to surpass the numbers from the last presidential election.

According to the Oregon Secretary of State's Office, 43 percent of Umatilla County's eligible voters have turned in a ballot so far, a slight increase from the 42.2 percent who submitted ballots by the Friday before the November 2012 election.

Although Umatilla County residents are voting at a faster pace than four years ago, they'd be hard pressed to exceed voter turnout from the

last time an incumbent president wasn't on the ballot.

Almost 45 percent of eligible voters had cast a ballot by the Friday before the November 2008 election, an election that would ultimately garner 80.1 percent turnout.

Umatilla County's 2016 return rate is still on the lower end of the state and dead last in Eastern Oregon, although Umatilla County is now only one point behind Malheur County's ballot return rate.

Umatilla County's voting trends mirrors those of Oregon, where its 41 percent return rate is a slight increase

from 2012 and a few points below 2008.

"Even with the 230,000 swell from Oregon Motor Voter this election, our turnout is exceeding expectations," Secretary of State Jeanne P. Atkins said.

Ballot drop boxes will be open through 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8 and are available at the Umatilla County Courthouse in Pendleton, Hermiston City Hall, Milton-Freewater City Hall, Nixyaawii Governance Center in Mission, Umatilla City Hall, Stanfield City Hall, Pilot Rock City Hall and Athena City Hall.

## BRIEFLY

### State investigating false calls about voter registration

The Oregon Secretary of State's office and law enforcement are investigating fraudulent automated calls telling voters that they are no longer registered to vote and their vote will not count.

Secretary of State Jeanne P. Atkins said anyone who received a ballot is registered to vote and their vote will be counted if they get their ballot to a county clerk's office by 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

"We are not sure who is behind these calls, but we take this type of voter suppression activity very seriously," Atkins said in a statement. "There is simply no circumstance under which an Oregonian who has received a ballot should receive a call challenging their registration status. Get your ballot in by 8 p.m. Tuesday, and your vote will be counted."

Mailed-in ballot must be received, not merely postmarked, by Tuesday, but voters who haven't gotten their ballot in the mail yet can hand-deliver them to ballot dropboxes until 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Umatilla County Courthouse in Pendleton, Hermiston City Hall, Milton-Freewater City Hall, Nixyaawii Governance Center in Mission, Umatilla City Hall, Stanfield City Hall, Pilot Rock City Hall and Athena City Hall.

### Some still waiting for property tax bill

HERMISTON — Certain Hermiston property owners have yet to receive their Umatilla County tax bills. Assessor Paul Chalmers

said his office in Pendleton mailed the statements last Friday, and since then at least 50 people called to complain they did not get a statement.

"Once we get them to the post office, they're out of our hands," he said.

The problem seems to be exclusive to Hermiston property owners receiving five or more statements at the same address, Chalmers said, and he told the postmasters in Pendleton, Hermiston and Portland about the situation. He said he has yet to hear what the solution might be.

Chalmers said he printed a new batch of the statements with labels noting they are copies and is considering delivering those to the Stafford Hansell Government Center, Hermiston.

"I'm trying to figure out the best way to make this accessible to folks in Hermiston," he said. "I don't want to mail them again because I don't need it to happen a second time."

Even if the statements are in some kind of mail limbo, Oregon law makes it clear the onus is on property owners to pay their taxes. People who pay their property taxes in full by Nov. 15 receive a 3 percent discount.

Chalmers said his office would work with people in this bind.

### Results of grant for food truck to be released in Dec.

PENDLETON — After organizing a month-long campaign to bring a food truck to Pendleton High School's culinary arts program, culinary teacher

Kristin Swaggart and her supporters will have to play the waiting game.

Swaggart and her project was one of 15 finalists considered for the Farmers Insurance Teachers Dream Big Challenge, which will award \$100,000 to the six teachers that receive the most votes from the public.

Although voting ended Oct. 30, a Pendleton School District press release states Swaggart won't be informed of the results until mid-December.

The last time the district was updated, Swaggart was in second place.

"The school and community support for this Dream Big Teacher Challenge has been just amazing, and I am so grateful for everything so many people did to get the votes out for this project," Swaggart said in a statement. "We certainly hope it was enough to make this dream a reality!"

Swaggart's proposal would involve purchasing a food truck students could use to prepare food for fundraising and community service projects as well as learn about the business side of running a restaurant.

### Assistance available to organic farmers

Funding is available to help organic and soon-to-be organic farmers implement conservation practices that can boost the health and productivity of their farmland.

Producers can apply for assistance through the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Environmental

Quality Incentives Program, or EQIP, or through Friday, Nov. 18.

The program works similar to a rebate, with the farmer paying the cost up front on projects such as high tunnels, cover crops and pollinator habitat. The NRCS then certifies the work is completed, and issues payment via direct deposit.

Eligibility requirements do apply. To learn more, contact the local USDA Service Center in Pendleton at 541-278-8049, or in Heppner at 541-676-9011.

### Port accepting commissioner applications

UMATILLA — The Port of Umatilla is seeking a commissioner to fill John Turner's seat after he resigns in December.

Turner, Pendleton's mayor-elect who will take that office in January, has been on the five-member port commission since 2008. His term ends next year.

The four remaining commissioners — Kurt Bendixsen, Tim Mabry, Jerry Imsland and Jerry Simpson — will review candidates who submit their information and choose one to finish the term. The county-wide seat will be up for election in May 2017, with a filing deadline in March.

Applicants can send their information to Kim Puzey, general manager of the Port of Umatilla, by email to [kimpuzey@uci.net](mailto:kimpuzey@uci.net), by mail to P.O. Box 879, Umatilla, OR 97882 or by dropping it off at the port office, 500 Willamette Ave. in Umatilla.

## Coreys receive honor for community service

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Steve and Susan Corey of Pendleton have been community and civic leaders at the local level and statewide for decades. Last month, they received The Al & Pat Reser Civic Leadership Award for their service.

Steve Corey said he and Susan consider this an honor, and they were happy their families were with them to share in the event.

The recognition was part of the 2016 Governors' Gold Awards the evening of Oct. 22 at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland. More than 600 people attended the event.

Steve Corey practices law in Pendleton at his firm, Corey, Byler & Rew. He has served as commissioner and vice-chair of the Port of Portland, chair of the Oregon Community Foundation, past president of the Pendleton

Round-Up Association and was central in creating the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, among other community involvement.

Steve and Susan also headed up the financial effort to build a better hospital in Pendleton. The result of the Pendleton power couple's work was the improved St. Anthony Hospital.

The Governors' Gold Awards honor significant Oregon individuals, businesses, and organizations. This year's recipients were Special Olympics Oregon Nike Youth Games, Portland Timbers/Thorns owner Merritt Paulson, the Samuel S. Johnson Foundation and Fred Meyer Stores.

Proceeds from the annual gala, now in its 13th year, benefit Oregon Special Olympics.

Contact Phil Wright at [pwright@eastoregonian.com](mailto:pwright@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0833.

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