

School to Careers continues at PHS

Program benefits students, employers

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Established a handful of years ago, the Pendleton School District was pleased with the development of its School to Careers program.

“Essentially, it’s an opportunity for young people to walk in someone else’s career shoes,” said Jill Gregg in describing its purpose.

As the ASPIRE coordinator, Gregg works closely with School to Careers. In a press release from the district, she called it a “great tool” in helping students determine interest in certain career fields. Participants engage in job shadows, internships and listen to guest speakers from area businesses and industries.

Curt Thompson, PHS assistant principal, knew the program was valuable because rather than contacting businesses first, many employers began reaching out to the district to participate. Upwards of 160 business partners were on board offering high school students a glimpse of what potential career paths look like — and then the global pandemic hit.

Funded through grants, the program operates through the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce. After nearly a two-year pause, the district hired Patti



Steve Lawn Jr., Pendleton UAS Test Range chief engineer, was a guest speaker Feb. 16, 2022, for the School to Careers program at Pendleton High School.

Ronda Thornburg/Contributed Photo

Hyatt as its new coordinator.

Exciting things are happening again with Hyatt reconnecting with area businesses. They didn’t have to start over, Gregg said, because original collaborations and many of the working relationships still exist.

The program, Thompson said, provides business owners with a voice in shaping future employees. Employers can essentially grow their workforce by building skills with students now. The program also

increases occupational literacy — awareness of what careers and jobs exist in the area.

And Work It Wednesdays does just that by inviting local employees to speak to students. Steve Lawn, chief engineer at the Pendleton UAS Test Range, spoke Feb. 16 in business instructor Sonia Cooley’s classroom.

He shared how his love of airplanes from early childhood was part of his long and circuitous route in getting to his current career. Lawn

also said high-paying jobs are available even without a college degree. And, he said, there are dozens of current job openings. He urged students to inquire about summer internships at the UAS Range.

“Getting a degree about airplanes to make a successful career is something I wished I had known was possible when I was 16 years old,” Lawn said.

For more information about School to Careers, email Hyatt at school2careers@pendletonchamber.com.

Boardman remembers Barry Beyeler

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — When Barry Beyeler died Feb. 15 at the age of 65, he left many locals with feelings of loss and sadness. Recently, a pair of Boardman leaders voiced their thoughts.

“He was a devoted and hardworking citizen who cared about his city,” Boardman Mayor Paul Keefer said. “Barry was actively engaged in his city and cared about his home, Boardman. You could always see Barry driving around in his work truck actively trying to promote Boardman. You could even see him at athletic events as well as community events.”

He added, “As Mayor, I will truly miss Barry.”

Boardman City Manager Karen Pettigrew described Beyeler as an exemplary, longtime employee.

“You just don’t find people who are committed to their jobs for that length of time,” she said.

She said she knew him for around 30 years, dating back to her work in the private sector. Her husband, Pettigrew said, was an electrical contractor, which put them in contact with Beyeler.

Beyeler worked well with people, she said, because he had a genuine fondness for others.

“He was always willing to help you out if he knew you



City of Boardman/Contributed Photo

A photo of Barry Beyeler was on the city of Boardman website Tuesday, March 15, 2022. It ran alongside a message announcing his death on Feb. 15. He was a longtime dedicated public servant for the city and died at the age of 65.

needed help,” she said.

Pettigrew said she liked Beyeler for years. He was the sort of person who always seemed to be around and be useful. Unfortunately, she said, it is easy to take such people for granted — until they are gone.

“I can’t tell you what a willing person he was to help people, particularly at work here,” she said. “He was willing to share what he knew about things, his knowledge.”

Much of his knowledge, she added, is lost. According to Pettigrew, the city had thought to connect Beyeler with someone who could learn from him and “capture” Beyeler’s knowledge. Sadly, she said, that did not happen, and it would have been tough to do, she said.

Pettigrew pointed out that Beyeler’s first work was with a private construction crew several years ago, and he was working on a public project. It was later, she said, that he started working with the city, first with the public works department and then with community development.

Beyeler’s obituary states that he started working for public works in 1980.

“He always remembered that hands-on work, which made him so valuable,” Pettigrew said.

She added that in the 1970s, people were “not so good” at as-built drawings. This being the case, it was useful to have Beyeler around, she said; he understood the city and how things had been built.

As the city was beginning major new projects, she said, Beyeler’s knowledge was useful. Beyeler, she said, understood how important he was to these projects, and he was planning on staying with the city until the projects could be finished.

Beyeler’s commitment

to service extended beyond Boardman’s borders.

He was a longtime member of the American Water Works Association and League of Oregon Cities. He served as a volunteer for the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board 2005-08, and that last year he was appointed to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Hanford Advisory Board. He also served on the Oregon Energy Facilities Siting Council 2010-19, even serving as vice chair 2013-15 and as chair 2015-19.

The city manager emphasized Beyeler’s great worth in Boardman. Projects or streets could be named after him, she said, and she stated that she has some thoughts about naming something after the man “in a couple of years.”

LOCAL BRIEFING

CTUIR attorney tapped for federal appointment

WASHINGTON D.C. — The Biden administration continues to draw from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation for its federal appointees.

Several months after the Senate confirmed former CTUIR interim Executive Director Chuck Sams as the National Park Service director, the White House announced it was appointing Brent Leonhard to the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Leonhard is an attorney in the tribes’ Office of Legal Counsel.

“As a parent of an autistic child, he is intimately familiar with the structural and systemic problems and frustrations those with intellectual or developmental disabilities face,” a March 11 press release states. “Leonhard is intent on advocating for significant improvements to federal law and policy in this area.”

This won’t be Leonhard’s first experience in federal committee work. In 2011, Leonhard was named a member of former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder’s Federal/Tribal Domestic Violence Taskforce. Four years later, the U.S. Sentencing Commission appointed him to its Tribal Issues Advisory Group.

Port of Morrow looks inward for next leader

BOARDMAN — The second-largest port in Oregon is looking to its own ranks for its next leader.

The Port of Morrow Commission in a press release Monday, March 14, announced an internal search for the port’s next executive director.

Ryan Neal, the port’s last executive director, died Jan. 17. Since then, the Port of Morrow has been operating under an administrative team.

The commission is accepting letters of interest and resumes from interested port employees from March 14 through April 4.

The commissioner

appoints the executive director, who is responsible for the management and administration of port activities. The port employs approximately 135 full-time employees. The only port in Oregon larger is the Port of Portland. The Port of Morrow is the region’s economic development leader.

According to the press release, the successful candidate will provide the leadership, management skills and administrative abilities to continue to move the port in the direction of industrial, commercial and community development potential while supporting the region’s quality of life.

Merkley to hold town hall for Umatilla County

PENDLETON — U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, will touch on his work in Washington, D.C., and answer questions later this month at an online town hall for his constituents in Umatilla County.

The meeting will be Tuesday, March 22, via Zoom and conference call, according to a press release issued by Merkley’s office.

“Hearing from Oregonians across the state is critical to doing my job. In these uncertain times, it’s more important than ever to hear directly from folks,” Merkley said in a press release. “The ideas and priorities I hear about in town halls

inform the solutions that I fight to get into federal law, like the projects for Oregon passing into law this weekend to fight wildfire smoke, invest in infrastructure and jobs, and address housing shortages. I look forward to these discussions — whether they’re in person, online on mobile devices or on the telephone — about how we can strengthen our state and our nation.”

The town hall begins at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom. Go to bit.ly/361qZHz to join on a computer, smartphone or tablet. To join by phone:

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