

From the North End

Boardman ranked in the 30 safest cities in Oregon

The SafeWise Report released its "30 Safest Cities in Oregon" report this week. Boardman came in at number 22 on the list. Baker City came in at number one while, more locally, Umatilla made the list at number 10.

To compile this report, SafeWise used the most recent FBI crime data from 2012 to analyze and rank these cities, which all have a minimum population of 2,500 people. They looked at crimes from part one of the FBI Unified Crime Report (UCR) reported crime data, which focuses on violent crimes (aggravated assault, forcible rape, murder and robbery) as well as property crimes (arson, burglary, larceny-theft and

motor vehicle theft). From there, they calculated the chances of these crimes happening out of a thousand in order to level the playing field for cities of varying populations. From all the cities in Oregon, they narrowed the list down to 30 and assigned rankings according to data provided by the FBI's UCR report.

"These Oregon cities really exemplify what it means to be a close-knit community," SafeWise security analyst Rebecca Edwards said. "Half of the cities on our list had less than 10 violent crimes reported in 2012. Being a community of trustworthy law enforcement and friendly neighbors who look out for each other really makes a

difference."

To see the full list go to <http://www.safewise.com/blog/30-safest-cities-Oregon/>.

SafeWise is a community-focused security organization that is the source for everything safety and security. They help residents compare security providers so they can best protect their homes the way they want to. The SafeWise Report provides resources to help make homes and communities a safer place. They provide home security tips and tools, as well as the most recent news in the safety industry. Visit <http://www.safewise.com/home-security/or> for more helpful safety resources.

Boardman high school to benefit from Oregon GEAR UP grant

Riverside Jr./Sr. High School in Boardman will be one of more than 20 rural schools to benefit from an Oregon GEAR UP grant, the InterMountain ESD has announced. Oregon will receive \$2.6 million a year for seven years for college readiness initiatives as part of the statewide GEAR UP program, the U.S. Department of Education announced last week.

Oregon GEAR UP, which is an acronym for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a federally-funded college access and success program that increases the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

As part of Oregon

State University's Office of Precollege Programs, Oregon GEAR UP works with cohorts of middle and high school students over a period of seven years to meet their specific educational needs. Services and activities include academic tutoring, financial literacy, FAFSA completion, college tours, and parent engagement programs, among others.

GEAR UP serves students starting in seventh grade and follows them through the first year of college. The work is carried out by staff in school districts in rural communities around the state, with a variety of supports from the central GEAR UP office and the contributions of many community partners.

"I couldn't be more excited about the opportunity to continue the good work of GEAR UP in Oregon," said Stephanie Carnahan, director of the Oregon GEAR UP program. "Our partnerships with rural communities across the state will make education beyond high school a reality for thousands of additional students."

Activities and services will be concentrated in 21 rural communities, which are expected to serve over 13,000 students over seven years. Other area schools to benefit include Stanfield Secondary School in Stanfield and Umatilla High School and Clara Brownell Middle School in Umatilla.

Student exchange program looking for community area representatives

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs is seeking volunteers to serve as local area representatives. ASSE provides academic year and semester exchange programs in the United States for high school

students from around the world.

Area representatives recruit and screen prospective host families, interview students to study abroad and supervise the exchange students in their community. Area

representatives are compensated based on the number of students they are supervising. There is also a great bonus opportunity.

For more info, call 1-800-733-2773 or email asseusawest@asse.com.

BELL TOWER, GROUNDBREAKING



Heppner contractor Rod Wilson speaks to the crowd with the restored clock tower behind him. —Photo by David Sykes

—Continued from PAGE ONE

to their authentic condition. Receiving a lot of praise for the tower restoration was contractor Rod Wilson of Heppner, who worked many hours restoring the structure at its temporary home at the old Kinzua Mill site.

"I don't think we could have hired a better person



Commissioner Ken Grieb

to do this job," said Public Works Director Burke O'Brien, who originally noticed how decrepit the structure had become and brought it to the attention of the county commission.

O'Brien's road department crew and staff also dedicated time and effort toward the reconstruction project.

"There were a lot of obstacles to overcome," Wilson told the crowd. "To be honest, when they originally told me what they wanted to do, I thought they were a little crazy. Take the tower down and fix it? You do wonder how the original workmen did get it up there, though."

"It was an awesome project to work on," he said.

Both county commissioners, Leann Rea and Ken Grieb, who backed the restoration project from the beginning, praised all involved and said their efforts were much appreciated.

County Judge Terry Tallman was master of ceremonies at the dedication and he pointed out many visiting and local officials and dignitaries, some from other counties.

Tallman said the original estimate to fix the tower was estimated at \$500,000 and he knew there was not enough money available, so he called on engineer Doug Ferguson, whose firm came up with some ideas to cut the cost and make the project feasible.

"It was very gratifying to work with so many people here in Morrow County for which this project became both a labor of love and a huge challenge," Ferguson said.

State Rep. Greg Smith was also on hand and told the crowd that the county's namesake, Jackson Lee Morrow, if here today, "would be proud of what you have done. This is a magnificent moment because we are preserving Morrow County history."



State Rep. Greg Smith: "You are preserving history."



Commissioner Leann Rea

Chamber Chatter

Friday, October 3, 5:30 p.m. — HHS Football Tailgate dinner hosted by Colt Football team and families: The meal will include soup, warm breadsticks, dessert and a drink for \$5. Come out and support a great cause and get a great meal. They will serve dinner until game time or until the food is gone, whichever comes first.

Saturday, October 4, 6:30 p.m. — HHS Booster Club Dinner and Auction — Heppner Elks Club: Plan now to attend the annual HHS Booster Club Dinner and Auction. The steak feed dinner will start at 6:30 p.m., with the auction to follow. Dinner is \$15 per person or \$65 for a family. The dinner and auction will take place downstairs in the dining room this year.

Thursday, October 16, 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. — Candidates' forum held during Heppner Chamber regular lunch meeting: A candidates' forum will be hosted by the Heppner Chamber, with candidates for the

opportunity to taste local beer, wine and cider. Questions - Contact the SAGE Center at 541-481-7678 or visit <http://visitsage.com>.

Heppner Mayor and City Councilor positions. The lunch will be served starting at 11:45 a.m. so we can have the majority of the hour for the forum. RSVPs for lunch will be required.

October 7–October 23, 2014 — Domestic Violence Services Volunteer Training — Stanfield Public Library: Domestic Violence Services will be offering volunteer training for answering calls on their 24 hour crisis line. If you are interested in taking an active role against domestic violence in your community and would like the opportunity to advocate for victims of domestic/sexual violence, please contact 541-276-3322 to reserve your spot. There are eight different training classes offered.

PERs eased on Umatilla forest

As of last Saturday, public use restrictions pertaining to chainsaw use, smoking and off-road travel were lifted on the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. This allows firewood cutting to resume all day.

Seasonal campfire restrictions will remain in place until Oct. 31; however, these campfire restrictions do not apply to designated wilderness areas and specified exempted developed rec-

reation sites (see Forest websites for exempted sites or areas).

"The intent is to allow campfire use, while promoting safe campfire building techniques that, in the long run, will protect lives, property, and our natural landscapes," said Brian Goff, Umatilla Fire Management Officer.

As a reminder, there are also site-specific year-round public use

regulations still in effect (see the Forest websites for further information).

Forest visitors are urged to use caution when building and tending campfires, cooking fires, and fires in wood stoves.

For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla, call the Umatilla National Forest at 541-278-3716, or contact the Heppner Ranger District at 541-676-9187.

Deadline: Monday at 5 p.m.



Go to a Game! Hear a Concert! See a play!

One of the best tickets in town will always be activities at our local schools. Football & basketball games, concerts & plays. You can always count on an enjoyable time. Our children are our future. Let's give them all the encouragement that we can!

At Bank of Eastern Oregon, we're a proud supporter of school activities & we're proud of our rural community schools!

Supporting Morrow County — the place we call home. Come see us today for all your financial banking needs.

Bank of Eastern Oregon

Heppner Branch • 541-676-9125 / Ione Branch • 541-422-7466

www.beobank.com
Member FDIC