

# Irrigon man dies in Boardman shooting

Hermiston Herald

One man died Sunday night in a shooting in Boardman. Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson said in a written statement that the Morrow and Umatilla counties major crime team is seeking "a juvenile person of interest in the case."

Police responded around 9 p.m. to Wilson Road Mobile Home Park, 600 Wilson Road, Boardman, to a report of a male with gun-

shot wound. Officers found Evencio Salas Birrueta, 28, of Irrigon, was the victim, and immediately began lifesaving measures. The efforts were unsuccessful, according to Nelson, and Birrueta died at the scene.

Nelson also reported the major crime team is using witness interviews and crime scene analysis to find a juvenile person of interest. According to the statement, "Law enforcement currently does not believe

there is a danger to the public."

"No other additional (information) will be released at this time," according to Nelson's statement. "Further information will be released once it is determined not to adversely affect the investigation."

Nelson also urged anyone with information concerning this case to contact the Boardman Police Department at 541-481-6071.

# Transportation priorities have \$14 million price tag

By **JADE McDOWELL**  
Staff Writer

A League of Oregon Cities survey has found more than \$3.7 billion in transportation needs in cities across the state, including more than \$14 million in Hermiston projects.

The report, released in August, compiled survey responses from 120 cities listing their top five priorities for highway projects and top five non-highway transportation priorities. It also examined those cities' maintenance budgets and found that responding cities were \$217 million short of the federal per-mile recommendation for highway spending.

As a region, Eastern Oregon cities had the least maintenance money in their budget, averaging \$2,694 per lane mile — more than \$18,000 below the level recommended by the Federal Highway Administration. Hermiston was above the Eastern Oregon average at \$6,798 per lane mile in 2014-2015. The city is responsible for maintaining 73 miles of road, or 178 "lane miles" when adding up each lane separately.

As for major projects, among Hermiston's top non-highway priorities is widening 10th Street between Elm Avenue and Punkin Center.

City staff described the upgrade as one of its biggest safety concerns in light of a planned Hermiston School District bond that, if passed, would result in a new elementary school along Theater Lane and 10th Street in 2018.

"Theater Lane will be the main access point for the school, and will require the School District to construct approxi-

mately a half-mile of new street," according to the survey response. "However, in real life, many parents and students will be forced to come to the school northbound along 10th street."

Combined with new housing developments east of town, Sandstone Middle School students walking along 10th Street to school and major congestion at Elm and 395, the proposed elementary school makes widening 10th Street an urgent priority for the city, at a cost of \$5.82 million.

"There is simply no way that the city of Hermiston can currently pay for a project of that scale," the report said.

In light of the expected traffic increase on Theater Lane connected to the proposed school, the city also listed adding turn pockets to the intersection of Theater Lane and Highway 395 as one of its top highway priorities.

The rest of its top five highway priorities are a signal at Highway 207 and Elm Avenue (already in the works in partnership with ODOT), a signal at Highway 207 and Orchard Avenue, more lanes at the intersection of Elm and Highway 395 and a traffic signal at the intersection of Highway 395 and Kelli Boulevard near

Airport Road.

The city's other top non-highway priorities are the re-alignment of Harper Road and Geer Road near Agape House, widening North First Place, redesigning the intersection of First Place and Highland Avenue near the high school and installing a roundabout at the intersection of Main Street, Seventh Street and Diagonal Road downtown.

Other cities in Umatilla and Morrow counties that submitted answers to the survey are Boardman, Irrigon, Heppner, Milton-Freewater and Ukiah. The full report, along with other League of Oregon Cities data, can be found online at [www.orcities.org/MemberServices/Research](http://www.orcities.org/MemberServices/Research).

The transportation report is a timely one given the state legislature's goal of putting together a comprehensive transportation funding package during the 2017 session that will dole out millions of dollars for various transportation infrastructure projects across the state. Legislators listened to city and county officials testify about some of Eastern Oregon's needs during a Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization meeting in Hermiston in June.

# Guardian Angel Homes opens second memory care facility

Hermiston Herald

Guardian Angel Homes has room for 16 more residents after cutting the ribbon on a second memory care home.

The Ranch House joins the Tuscan House — which opened in April — as a secure but home-like living facility for people with Alzheimer's or dementia.

The home at 540 N.W. 12th St. in Hermiston includes 16 private bedrooms and bathrooms, a spacious living and dining room area, a kitchen staffed by a professional chef and a

fenced-in courtyard residents can use at any time. The facility will offer nursing, round-the-clock assistance and a variety of activities for the residents.

The facility is owned by the Frantz family, which has built and operates several memory care facilities around the Pacific Northwest after Marty Frantz's own father suffered a stroke and severe dementia in 1997.

Jennifer Baus Samoska, Frantz's daughter, described the two memory care homes and assisted

living facility a "beautiful campus" able to accommodate a wide range of needs, from a more independent lifestyle at the assisted living facility to more intensive care for Alzheimer's patients at risk of wandering away from unsecured facilities.

For information about openings at the facilities, including the new Ranch House, call Guardian Angel Homes at 541-564-9070 or visit their website at [www.guardianangelhomes.com](http://www.guardianangelhomes.com).

## IN BRIEF

### Stanfield hosts meeting on codes

Stanfield residents are invited to a community meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 20.

The meeting will include a joint work session with the city council and city planning commission to discuss updates to the city's downtown code.

The city council hopes to adopt new guidelines for downtown businesses by the end of the year. The project's four goals are to remove barriers to downtown development, encourage a "pleasant and walkable" downtown, promote a consistent visual design and make the development code easier to read. Citizens can give their input at the 7 p.m. Sept. 20 meeting at Stanfield Secondary School, 1120 N. Main St. in Stanfield.

### Development fees will stay the same

Stanfield's city council voted not to raise its fees for new development on Tuesday despite a report justifying charges more

than twice as high.

The city commissioned a report by Anderson Perry & Associates to examine its methodology for setting system development charges. Cities commonly impose system development charges on new homes or businesses to help cover the cost of expanding infrastructure such as water lines to accommodate new development.

In Stanfield, developers have been paying \$5,399 per "equivalent residential unit." The report by Anderson Perry & Associates calculates a need of \$13,190 per unit. The city council, however, took the public works committee's recommendation to impose a rate of \$5,400.

"We didn't want to be the most expensive city in Eastern Oregon," City Manager Blair Larsen said.

The city is changing how the money is used. Before, system development charges went only to water and wastewater upgrades. Now a percentage of the revenue is also earmarked for transportation improvements. Some money will also go toward park improvements.

### Armand Larive teacher wins grant

Armand Larive Middle School teacher Robert Doherty was the only Oregon recipient of a 2016 Unsung Heroes award to educators offering innovative teaching ideas in their classrooms.

The award from Voya Financial came with a \$2,000 grant for his classroom and an opportunity to compete against other finalists from around the country for grants of up to \$25,000.

The award recognizes Doherty's work in teaching Armand Larive's video production class, where middle school students learn to shoot and edit video, write scripts, record voice-overs, perform interviews on-air and other professional video production skills. Past classes have provided live online coverage for some Hermiston events, including football games and Relay for Life.

The Voya Unsung Heroes program is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Since 1996 it has awarded nearly \$5 million in grants.

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