

Stanfield council lists top goals for city

By **JADE McDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

Developing Stanfield's interchange with Interstate 84 is the city's top priority, according to a goal-setting process with city councilors.

Councilors had two different brainstorming sessions earlier in the year, then individually ranked all projects according to importance. Fostering development at the interchange by expanding the city's urban growth boundary was the first of 21 goals released Friday by the city of Stanfield.

City manager Blair Larsen said he expects the goals to guide the city's work for the next five years. Some projects on the list are already in the works, while

others will need grant money or other revenue sources behind them before they become a reality.

"Funding is always the issue," Larsen said.

As far as development of the land around the interchange, Larsen said there are two main ways a city can directly influence development: putting the necessary infrastructure into place and working to match the needs of potential developers. The state often sends "leads" to cities, letting them know that a company is in need of a piece of land in their area that meets a certain list of criteria. Larsen said Stanfield usually doesn't have a match because its available commercial and industrial land is too small or too far away

from the city's infrastructure.

The state is extremely restrictive on when cities can add space to their urban growth boundaries, and Larsen said Stanfield's needs wouldn't fit that criteria. However, he believes the city would qualify to swap land, taking a chunk out of the city's UGB elsewhere and putting in the land around the interchange instead.

Developer Kent Madison is looking to develop an RV park and commercial space on the opposite side of the interchange, near Echo. That land is in Echo's urban growth boundary, not Stanfield's, but Larsen said if it goes through it could still help Stanfield in its goal of making the interchange near the Pilot truck stop more

than a place for travelers to pull off the road.

"A more developed interchange, I think, is better for everybody," he said.

A few of the council's goals are already well on their way to being a reality. Goal number 10 is to increase the hours of the city's part-time code enforcement officer to make her a community enforcement officer who spends time in Stanfield and Echo schools, increases the amount of time spent on code enforcement and helps out with goal number seven, which is to increase the Stanfield Police Department's public outreach and visibility. Larsen has been working with the school districts to make that happen in the coming year.

"This is not really a reactive position, but a proactive one," Larsen said.

The majority of the council's goals fall into the public works category. The council would like to see the city rehabilitate the old water tower standing over downtown, add more playground equipment to parks, improve park signage, install history markers around town, construct a bike path to Pilot and construct a trail along Stage Gulch. The city is also hoping to develop a concrete list of projects for volunteers and get everyone together at least once a year for a citywide cleanup event.

"Nobody wants to volunteer for something that is going to be a never-ending job," Larsen said.

On the administrative side, the council wants to complete a salary study, give cost of living raises every two years and make police salaries more competitive. One way to do that will be goal number four, which is to raise franchise fees on utilities to 7 percent. The extra revenue can be part of the city's goals to develop five-year financial forecasts and to write a capital improvement plan.

The other goals on the council's list are to conduct annual meetings between the city council and business owners, expand the public library's hours, present the council with an annual performance report and update the city's website quarterly.

ONPA inducts Reed into Hall of Fame

The Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association inducted G. M. "Jerry" Reed, former owner and publisher of the Hermiston Herald, into the Oregon Newspaper Hall of Fame on Thursday, July 13, during a ceremony at the group's summer convention in Bend.



G.M. "Jerry" Reed

Reed was honored for "extraordinary contribution to the newspaper industry of Oregon" during the event.

Reed bought a half interest in the Herald in 1970 and became the newspaper's publisher. He bought the remaining interest in the paper from Marge Bartlett in 1975 and continued as publisher until selling the paper to Westcom Publishing in December 1991.

Kathryn Brown, publisher of the Hermiston Herald and East Oregonian, said that Reed "had a tremendous positive impact on the city of Hermiston. Under his ownership in the 1970s and '80s, the Hermiston Herald was an integral part of Hermiston's evolution from a small farm town to the fastest-growing city in Eastern Oregon."

Brown added that "we are proud to have a connection to his legacy today."

Reed died Nov. 4, 2016, in Hermiston at 81.

During his career Reed



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST

Penny Reed shows off the plaque her family was given to commemorate her late husband Jerry Reed's induction to the Oregon Newspaper Hall of Fame by the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association during a ceremony July 13 in Bend at Tetherow resort.

was also publisher of the Itemizer-Observer in Dallas, Oregon, was a partner in Eagle Newspapers with Denny Smith and Dick Nafsinger, was a past president of American Newspaper Representatives and the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association.

Members of Reed's family, including his widow Penny Reed, daughter Shannon Paxton (the Hermiston office coordinator for the Hermiston Herald and East Oregonian) and sons Sean and Marc were in attendance during the ceremony to accept Reed's induction

Herald wins two awards from ONPA

The Hermiston Herald was honored with two awards from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association during the organization's annual convention last week in Bend.

Jade McDowell, a Hermiston-based reporter for both the East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald, placed second in the Best Spot News category for her reporting on the aftermath of a murder-suicide that rocked the community in August 2016.

Doug Sanders also placed second in the Best Front Page Design category for a selection of his front page designs for 2016.



plaque along with Kathryn Brown, current publisher of the Hermiston Herald and co-owner of EO Media Group, which currently owns the Hermiston Herald.

Reed becomes the 58th person inducted into the Oregon Newspaper Hall of Fame since it was established in 1979.

Past inductees are legendary figures in Oregon journalism, including Claude Ingalls of the Corvallis Gazette-Times, Charles "Sam" Jackson of The Oregon Journal, former Oregon governors Elmo Smith of the Albany Democrat-Herald and Charles Sprague of the Salem Statesman, E. B. Aldrich of the East Oregonian, Alton F. Baker Sr. of the Eugene Register-Guard, J.W. "Bud" Forrester of the East Oregonian and Daily

Astorian, as well as Reed's former Eagle Newspapers partners Richard Nafsinger of the Hood River News and Denny Smith.

Reed becomes the first person inducted into the Hall of Fame since 2013. No members were inducted in 2010 or 2014-2016.

Hermiston fire burns grass land, barn

A brush fire started by a lawn mower burned about 30 acres and a small barn Sunday in Hermiston.

The fire started late Sunday morning between West Highland and Orchard avenues in an open field, just north of the Hermiston Christian Center church and school.

According to a press release from the Umatilla County Fire District, the fire was sparked by a mower hitting something, and the operator was unable to control the fire in the high grass because of high winds.

Flames were as high as 15 feet when firefighters arrived and the wind was blowing 10 mph, rapidly moving the fire.

Firefighters from Echo, Umatilla and Boardman responded to help fight the fire, and Cascade Natural Gas, Umatilla Electric and local police agencies were also on scene.

There was one wreck caused by a driver distracted by the fire. Traffic was closed on both Highland and Orchard for a time.

Firefighters had the blaze under control by mid-afternoon.

Inmate dies Saturday at TRCI

A convicted murderer died at Two Rivers Correctional Institution early Saturday morning.

According to an Oregon Department of Corrections press release, Richard

Bradbury, 61, was found unresponsive in his cell at approximately 3:38 a.m.

Despite life saving efforts from medical staff, Bradbury was declared dead at 4:16 a.m.

Public can attend superintendent interviews

HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston School District staff and members of the public are encouraged to sit in on the district's interview process for an interim superintendent.

The district is looking for someone to fill in for Superintendent Fred Maiocco after Maiocco announced at a school board meeting July 10 that he leaves July 24 to serve a 15 to 18 month tour of duty in Europe with the U.S. Army Reserves.

Interviews for the position will take place July 24 in the school district offices at 305 SW 11th Street. If two candidates are interviewed, the interviews will take place at 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. If three candidates are interviewed the interviews will take place at 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

A news release by the district said the interviews will be a formal process, not the meet-and-greet the public is used to attending for principals. Attendees are encouraged to sit through the full interview process for all candidates, then provide written feedback on cards that will be available. School board chair Karen Sherman said in a statement that she encouraged as members of the community as possible to attend.

"Selecting an interim superintendent is a very

important function for the board, and is one that should not be taken lightly," she said. "The superintendent position is very

visible in our schools and community. The board feels that it's imperative that we include stakeholders in the process."

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