

## Boardman's Youth Citizen of the Year



Boardman Chamber of Commerce/Contributed Photo  
**Makaila Lantis (center) holds her 2021 Youth Citizen of the Year award. She received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Boardman Chamber of Commerce, too. During the event the chamber of commerce auctioned off table centerpieces donated by chamber members/local businesses at the awards banquet and were able to raise more than \$10,000 for the Boardman Chamber of Commerce Scholarship fund for Riverside Jr/Sr High School seniors.**

## Umatilla County voters only get choices in a few races this May

Hermiston Herald

Outside of the races for Hermiston City Council and the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners, there won't be much choice on Umatilla County residents' May 17 ballots.

Umatilla County Elections Division recently released a list of all candidates who filed for races that will appear on county ballots.

In Milton-Freewater, city council incumbents Steve Irving and Wes Kocklich are the only candidates in the at-large races while

Ward 1 Councilor John Lyon also is running unopposed. A similar trend happened in Pendleton, where all five city council seats up for election attracted only one candidate, all but assuring a free pass to new, four-year terms.

It was a different story in Hermiston: all but one city council race is contested and the municipal judge race also will have a competitive election. The only uncontested race is in Hermiston's Ward 3, where incumbent Jackie Myers' last-minute entry ensured the race wouldn't go to a

write-in vote.

The race for two seats on the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners also is packed and no one dropped out before the deadline. The race for Position 1, a seat Commissioner George Murdock is vacating, has six candidates, while Position 2 Commissioner John Shafer is facing a challenge from two other candidates.

A couple of city electorates also will be asked to vote on tax issues.

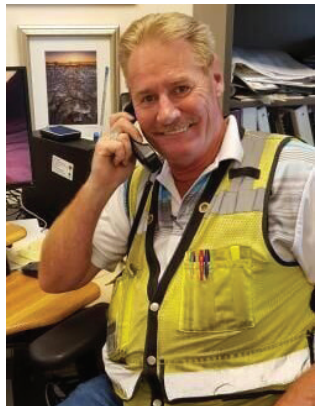
In Milton-Freewater, the city is proposing a tax that would levy an estimated 32-cent per \$1,000

in assessed property value to raise \$500,000 for park repairs. Projects would include repairs or replacements at the Joe Humbert Aquatic Center, Yantis Park and the municipal golf course.

In Helix, the parks and recreation district is asking voters to approve an estimated 37-cent per \$1,000 tax to raise \$1 million over 21 years or less. The money would go toward building a new pool, splash pad and pump house in addition to making repairs and improvements to the bathhouse and bathrooms.

## Boardman leaders remember 'devoted' Barry Beyeler

By ERICK PETERSON  
 Hermiston Herald



City of Boardman/  
 Contributed Photo

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, long-time 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 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,

**A photo of Barry Beyeler was on the city of Boardman website 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.**

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."

## State charges Morrow County suspect in shooting with second-degree murder

Hermiston Herald

Shooting suspect Caleb Beehler is on the hook for second-degree murder in Morrow County.

The district attorney's office Friday, March 18, arraigned Beehler, 39, on the lone charge following a grand jury indictment in the shooting death of Richard Broadbent, 58, accord-

ing to court records.

Law enforcement was looking for Beehler in the wake of the killing March 9 in northern Morrow County. He turned himself in at the Hermiston Police Department on March 10.

Defense attorney Dean Gushwa of Pendleton represents Beehler, according to court records, and his next court date is March 31

for a status check that could include setting a bail hearing.

District Attorney Justin Nelson asked the court to seal all warrants, the applications for a search warrant and affidavit in support of the search warrant to anyone except Beehler's attorney.

"Disclosure of the information in the warrants, applications for

search warrant and affidavit in support of search warrants could compromise an ongoing investigation in that witnesses, friends, or family members of said suspect(s), might destroy evidence, coordinate their stories or even flee the jurisdiction," according to Nelson's motion. Circuit Judge Dan Hill granted the request.

## BottleDrop announces fundraising to support Ukraine relief

Hermiston Herald

The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative, which operates the BottleDrop network, announced Monday, March 21, it is engaging its emergency fund to support humanitarian relief services for Ukrainians through the Portland-based nonprofit Mercy Corps.

Mercy Corps is a global crisis response and humanitarian organization operating in more than 40 countries and has rapidly deployed teams to help people in Ukraine, Poland and Romania who have been displaced by the conflict in Ukraine.

Between now and April 10, BottleDrop is encouraging its Green Bag account holders — more than 810,000 — to make donations from their BottleDrop accounts to support Mercy Corps' Ukraine relief efforts, according to the news release. The company also announced it will match those donations with a \$25,000 contribution from the OBRC emergency fund. BottleDrop account holders can direct their dona-

To learn more, visit the following sites: BottleDrop at BottleDropCenters.com, including for location information. Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative at OBRC.com. Mercy Corps at mercycorps.org.

tions by visiting BottleDropCenters.com/Ukraine and logging in to their accounts.

"A devastating catastrophe is unfolding in Ukraine and in the region, costing and threatening lives and livelihoods, driving families apart and causing mass displacement," Mercy Corps communications director Lynn Hector said in the news release. "We are grateful for the immense generosity we're seeing from people globally and here in our hometown community and across the State of Oregon to support our efforts to help Ukrainians in urgent need of assistance," said Lynn Hector, director of communications at Mercy Corps."

Oregonians also can donate Oregon 10-cent redeemable cans and bottles directly to this effort (and have their funds matched) by taking them to any BottleDrop Redemption Center and letting staff on-site know they would like to donate them to Mercy Corps' Ukraine relief efforts.

More than three million people have fled Ukraine since Feb. 24, leaving their homes, possessions and livelihoods. The United Nations estimated that 10 million Ukrainians — a quarter of their population — could be displaced inside and outside of the country.

"We are devastated by the tragedy in Ukraine, and we wanted to find a way to engage the BottleDrop network and help Ukrainians seeking safety," said Eric Chambers, director of external relations at OBRC. "Oregonians routinely put their bottles and cans to great use supporting nonprofits and community organizations. Now we have a chance to use our BottleDrop funds and redeemable containers to help our distant neighbors in Ukraine during this horrible crisis."



Hermiston Herald, File

**The line at the Hermiston BottleDrop wraps around the front of the store and down the depth of the building on June 12, 2020. Now through April 10, 2022, you can donate through BottleDrop to support Mercy Corps' Ukraine relief efforts.**

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 2150 N. First St., Hermiston

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