

Bank merger refreshes local man's ties



By Bill Bradshaw

ENTERPRISE — When Umpqua Bank in Enterprise merges with Columbia Bank next year, it won't be just a corporate merger; an Enterprise native will be at the helm.

In fact, Clint Stein already is the president and CEO of Columbia Bank, and while his career has taken him away from Wallowa County, he stays in touch.

"I keep track of what's going on in Wallowa County," he said in a telephone interview Wednesday, Oct. 20, from Tacoma, where Columbia Bank's headquarters are.

Stein said he is still in contact with some from his growing-up years. He recalls teachers and coaches who are still here and was pleased to see the return of Tom Crane as interim superintendent. Crane was Stein's junior high basketball coach in the mid-1980s.

"They taught you how to work hard but (were) supportive at the same time," he said. "When you're connected to Wallowa County, it's nice to see people who were part of your life years ago."

He also recalled people who have stayed here and prospered, such as Lance Homan, superintendent of Joseph Charter School. Homan was a freshman when Stein was a senior in



The Stein family, from left, are Brendan, Julie, Rhett and Clint. Clint Stein, originally from Enterprise, is CEO and president of Columbia Bank, which is merging with Umpqua Bank. He and Julie both got their banking starts in Enterprise.

high school.

"It's nice to see someone go from being a kid to being a leader in the community," Stein said.

A native

Stein was born in Enterprise, while his wife, the former Julie Findley, was born in Newberg and moved to Lostine at 4 years old. They both graduated from Enterprise High School, Stein in 1990 and Julie in 1992.

They have two sons, one

in college and the other a junior in high school.

After college, Stein returned to Enterprise. He worked for several certified public accountants and eventually became a CPA.

Julie got her start in banking at what was then Pioneer Bank — the building that now houses Umpqua Bank.

"That's the building where she started her banking career and it's where I had my first bank account as a kid," he said.

Stein was encouraged to enter banking by John Bailey, who worked at a local bank. He left Enterprise in 2005, but hasn't forgotten what he learned here.

"It's a great place to grow up. I enjoyed it as a kid and when I came back from college and started my work career," Stein said. "I think the lessons you learn in a small town have served me well. ... A town like Enterprise, there's no anonymity. You're accountable to your



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Customers go through the drive-thru window at the Umpqua Bank in Enterprise on Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021. Next year, Umpqua will merge with Columbia Bank.

UMPQUA BANK

What: Merging with Columbia Bank
Where: 205 W Main St., Enterprise
Phone: 541-426-3124
Online: www.umpquabank.com

neighbors. Small-town values continue to drive me and how we lead the bank today."

The bank

According to the Columbia Bank website, on Oct. 11, the bank's board of directors approved the agreement to combine Columbia and Umpqua banks. Stein said that it will take several months to complete the state and federal regulatory processes and receive approval for the merger.

"We're anticipating sometime the middle of next year," he said. "That's kind of our target."

He said he anticipates little change in the Enterprise bank. The sign won't change and there aren't likely to be any job losses. If anything, Umpqua Bank will offer more. He said he anticipates

the merger with Columbia will allow Umpqua to offer additional banking products and services.

"In terms of impact in what you'll see in Wallowa County, you'll see very little," he said. "What you see in Enterprise will be Umpqua Bank."

Ever the banker, Stein is eager for the merger to take place.

"I'm excited about the entire combination," he said. "We're the two premier banking franchises in the Northwest. ... I'm excited about the Enterprise location because that's my hometown."

Bill Bradshaw is a reporter for the Wallowa County Chieftain. Have a business tip? Contact him at 541-398-5503 or bbradshaw@wallowa.com.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Goals
5. Sound of disgust
8. Worshipper of Jah
13. Seemingly emotionless sort
15. Born as
16. Shining
17. Paul, in Italy
18. Get busy, as a bee
20. Pointless
22. Rich
23. Moral trajectory that bends toward justice, per Martin Luther King Jr.
25. "The end is ___!"
27. Conan's network until 2021
28. Henhouse perches
30. As high as
32. Tito Puente's "___ Como Va"
35. Have a cow?
36. (May I have some milk?)
37. Infuriate
38. French for "love"
39. Make up one's mind
40. Wedding attendee
42. Comfy room
43. Voiced
45. Way to serve pastrami
46. Dreyer's partner in ice cream
47. Civil rights activist Baker
48. Masthead title
49. Prefix with "angle" or "cycle"
50. Dog's space to exercise
52. Fifth-century nomad
53. Dealt with bumps in the road?
57. Oreo filling
59. "Almost ready!"
61. Skewered meat dish
64. Negative person
65. "C'mon, be a ___!"
66. Bicycle wheel part
67. Score that beats a birdie
68. Period of note
69. Lovers' quarrel

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CLUES DOWN

1. Snake that bit Cleopatra
2. "Let's call ___ day"
3. *Fictional lunar settlement
4. Farm storage spot
5. Remove, as a wooden pin
6. Start to cache?
7. Leader's metaphorical spot
8. *Iris, in Greek myth
9. French New Wave director Varda
10. Kill it, in drag lingo
11. Bag at a bookstore
12. Truly impressed
14. *Fast-casual restaurants offer it
19. Ball game?
21. Palindromic sib
23. Place to play "Street Fighter"
24. Meandered
26. *Work week's midpoint
29. Crime show starring Ice-T, for short
31. Dog or guinea pig
32. Wildly exaggerated, or a hint to two words that can precede each starred answer's start
33. Response to "Who, me?"
34. Medical student at a hospital, e.g.
39. "Black gold"
41. Sea urchin in sushi
44. Being from another planet
48. Go astray
49. Language spoken in Sri Lanka
51. High-speed Amtrak train
53. Arborio or basmati
54. "Orinoco Flow" singer
55. Sudden feeling of guilt
56. Scam artist's victim
58. Atlas contents
60. Roofing material
62. T'Challa, ___ Black Panther
63. As of today



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