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## John Day council selects Green as city manager

Green: Family ties, background make job excellent fit

By Sean Hart  
Blue Mountain Eagle

John Day may have found a new city manager to replace Peggy Gray, who is retiring after 15 years.

John Day City Council members unanimously agreed to appoint Nick Green to the position upon a mutually agreed upon employment agreement Tuesday, May 24.

Gray said he has been living in Bothell, Washington,

and previously worked as a senior associate for Booz Allen Hamilton before returning to school to obtain his master's degree in public administration at the University of Washington, which he completed earlier this year. She said he sat across the table from three-star generals in his previous job.

"I think he's going to definitely do a good job and take the city in a new direction," she said.

Green said he was a senior executive with Booz Allen Hamilton for seven years and a program manager for Jacobs Engineering for three years.

"I was a management consultant," he said. "I led large-scale organization change and transformation initiatives for federal government agencies. And I also worked in technology acquisition — basically, my role was to help field advanced technologies to soldiers fighting in Iraq and Af-



Nick Green

ghanistan." Mayor Ron Lundbom said Green previously managed a staff of 40 with a budget of \$8 million. Lundbom said Green "did his homework" on the city, reading several years of council minutes, the city charter and its employee handbook. Lundbom said, during his employee interview, Green suggested two possible projects

— wastewater and marketing programs — that could benefit the city.

"I was convinced after his interview," Lundbom said. "I saw a lot of potential."

Lundbom said Green's wife was raised in John Day, and she still has family in the area, which made the position desirable.

Green said he married Morgan Haney, daughter of Tom and Ginger Haney, about 10 years ago and has visited John Day twice a year since then. He said they have two

children, Kaden, 10, and Penelope, 2, and were looking for an opportunity to be closer to family.

"I love John Day," he said. "It's just a very serene place. Family is very important to me. We love the outdoors and camping. I personally like playing golf and riding motorcycles, and I'm an avid reader. Those are my hobbies. It sounded like a pretty good fit."

Green earned a bachelor's

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As spending on lobbying increases, transparency remains murky

By Hillary Borrud  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Businesses, special interest groups and governments have increasingly invested in lobbying Oregon lawmakers and other state officials over the last nine years. And based on spending data from the state, those groups appear to have concluded lobbying is a good investment: Reported annual spending on lobbying increased 15 percent from 2007 to 2015, when adjusted for inflation.

Yet despite the millions of dollars involved, it's nearly impossible for Oregonians to get details on how lobbyists spend that money to achieve payoffs for their clients, because Oregon law allows lobbyists and their clients to disclose little information about how they influence state laws and spending.

The EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau categorized lobbying spending in Oregon by industry and sector using data from the Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks spending on lobbying by industry at the federal level. In total, groups spent more than \$251 million on lobbying over the last nine years, according to state data.

The health care sector — whose ranks include nurses, pharmaceutical companies, hospitals and doctors — reported spending the most on lobbying from 2007 through 2015, a total of \$36.5 million.

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## IN SOLEMN REMEMBRANCE



### Grant County reveres those who died while serving

By Cheryl Hoefler  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The brave men and women who died during their military service to the United States were not forgotten in Grant County this Memorial Day weekend.

Both Prairie City and Canyon City cemeteries were trimmed in stunning style, with the red, white and blue of large American flags flanking the gravel roadways. Smaller American flags were posted at hundreds of gravesites for each veteran who died in battle — some dating back to the Civil War.

The decoration was the hard work of local American Legions — No. 106 in Prairie City and No. 77 from John Day doing the honors in Canyon City.

Legion 106 held a short remembrance, attended by about 40 people, on Monday morning, May 30, at the Prairie City Cemetery. Commander Tom McAuslan led the event with prayers and words of comfort. Legion members presented a gun salute, and Ed Heiple played "Taps" on trumpet.

McAuslan laid a poppy wreath at the base of the cemetery's veterans memorial for those who died in battle on land. Most of the group followed to the Bridge Street bridge where McAuslan dropped a wreath into the John Day River, in remembrance of those who were lost at sea.



Eagle photos/Cheryl Hoefler

American Legion Post 106 Commander Tom McAuslan tosses a wreath into the John Day River in remembrance of those military personnel who were lost at sea. LARGE PHOTO: American flags, courtesy of American Legion 106, line roadways at Prairie City Cemetery. Smaller flags mark the gravesites of veterans. TOP PHOTO: Members of Prairie City's American Legion Post 106 offer a gun salute during a Memorial Day remembrance at Prairie City Cemetery on May 30. See more photos on Page A10.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

From left, Zack Deiter, Duane Stokes, Dante Valentine, Sonna Smith and Cauy Weaver test the space experiment proteins.

## Giant leap for Grant Union student scientists

Research project returns from space station

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Five Grant Union sophomores were glad to learn a space experiment they're conducting made a successful landing on Earth after a few weeks in space.

The group, sophomores Zack Deiter, Elijah Humbird,

Duane Stokes, Dante Valentine and Cauy Weaver and teacher Sonna Smith, experienced setbacks along the way but finally opened their package from space at the school May 25.

They've been testing the materials the past week in the Grant Union science lab using biotechnology equipment, comparing the protein (a three-dimensional structure of green fluorescent protein in E. Coli) sent to space with the same mixture stored at the school.

Their findings could show if micro-gravity contributes

to or diminishes the misfolding of protein, which could help prevent long-term health problems for astronauts or provide new treatment pathways in the future.

Testing they've conducted so far shows growth of the protein sent to space.

"We know the protein we are testing grew in space," Smith said. "That's what the glowing tells us, but we still don't know how much misfolding happened."

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