

Local board game creator searches for capital

“Accession” inspired by time spent in real estate industry

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

A local man is working on raising capital to sell a home-grown board game.

Accession is a real estate investment game that, on its surface, looks similar to Monopoly.

However, game creator Everett King said it's not much like Monopoly at all, and he designed Accession to be less punitive.

Two to six players move about the board purchasing property, building property value. The goal of the game is to “outsmart opponents and attain the greatest net worth by buying and selling income-producing proper-

ties,” King said.

King said he designed the game while working in real estate in the '70s. He had roughly 1,000 boards made at one point, but was unable to sell them because of manufacturing defects, he said.

The game encourages player interactions and requires decision making and planning, according to King.

People who are interested can join King and other players at The Corner Cup from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.

“I think I like it because it's a pretty accurate representation of the real estate game,” said Caleb Maplesden, who regularly plays the game.

“I like that you never know who is going to win,” Sara Lambeth, who also plays the game regularly, said. “We like that Everett doesn't win all the time. He's the inventor so you think he would always outsmart us, but you would be surprised.”



Everett King plays Accession, a real estate investment board game he created, at The Corner Cup in John Day on Thursday, Aug. 17.

The Eagle/Rylan Boggs



Contributed photo

A small portion of Olive Lake will be closed for dam and spillway work through Oct. 1. The half-acre closure represents less than 1 percent of the 149-acre lake.

Caution advised at Olive Lake boat ramp

Blue Mountain Eagle

Due to lowering water levels, Forest Service officials are requesting visitors use caution when launching boats at the Olive Lake boat ramp.

Continued loss of water out of the Olive Lake Dam combined with lack of significant rainfall over the summer have lowered the level of the lake to the point that the boat ramp may be difficult for larger trailers to use, according to a Forest Service press release.

“The lake level is now well below the end of the boat ramp concrete pad, so that there is an 8- to 10-inch gravel drop-off from the end of the ramp to the water. It could be very difficult for boat trailers to get over this drop-off when pulling boats back out of the water,” said Shaun Oliver, facilities engineer.

Forest officials closed a small portion of Olive Lake on the North Fork John Day Ranger District to complete maintenance work on the dam and spillway on Aug. 7. The closure prohibits boating and swimming within the closure area. Work will be intermittent and is anticipated to last until Oct. 1.

The area closed to public entry is approximately one-half acre in size and is signed, fenced and defined by a string of buoys (extending from the dam into the water about 200 feet) to notify swimmers and boaters of the closure. The closure area is located on the northeast side of Olive Lake. The campground remains open, but sites near the dam should be avoided. The hiking trail in the vicinity of the dam and spillway is closed during construction, but boating and swimming are still allowed outside the restricted area. Currently less than 1

percent of the 149-acre lake surface area is affected by the closure.

Construction activities on the dam and spillway include rip rap placement on the lake-side face of the dam, removal and filling of the access tunnel on the backside of the dam, as well as removal of vegetation and debris in the spillway.

Olive Lake is a popular mountain lake and campground located 12 miles west of Granite. The natural lake was deepened by a 30 foot-high dam built in the early 1900s by the Fremont Power Company to provide hydroelectric power, generated at the Fremont Powerhouse, to the then-booming gold mining community.

For more information about permitted recreation activities on Olive Lake, contact the North Fork John Day Ranger District at 541-427-3231.

City hires agribusiness manager

Manitsas a Grant Union, OSU grad

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

A Grant Union and Oregon State University graduate has been hired to oversee the city of John Day's hydroponic greenhouse project.

Matt Manitsas was hired on as the agribusiness manager for the project on Aug. 14.

“Coming back to John Day with an agriculture degree and getting to continue my education through practice and working with guys like Aaron (Lieuallen) and Nick (Green) makes me feel really excited and fortunate,” Manitsas said.

Growing up, he often helped family friends with ranching and became more interested in agriculture during high school.

“Through the FFA program here at Grant Union and the ag classes, I developed my passion for agriculture,” he said.

Manitsas graduated from OSU in four years with an agribusiness degree and a minor in communications. Programs through Grant Union gave him college-level credits



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

Matt Manitsas is the agribusiness project manager for the city of John Day.

toward his degree.

On a different path than most farmers, Manitsas is excited to be working on a unique project like the greenhouses.

“This is kind of a one-of-a-kind opportunity,” he said. “Down the road in 5-10 years, I'm going to have a tremendous amount of experience working for the city and with public works.”

The city's plan for the greenhouse includes using reclaimed water from a proposed wastewater plant also on the Oregon Pine Property. A feasibility study for the new wastewater plant is scheduled to begin in September.

Controlled climates in

greenhouses bring plants to fruition more quickly and allow for multiple growing cycles, according to Manitsas.

“John Day has a short growing season,” he said. “Using the greenhouses, you can expand that to year-round.”

Manitsas said the city was looking at growing produce including tomatoes and lettuce that could be sold at local markets, restaurants and schools.

This would result in fresher produce at lower prices for consumers.

If the yields were high enough, the city could also look at exporting produce beyond the county. Manitsas explained many trucks bringing goods into John Day leave empty providing an opportunity.

The city's goal is to be in construction by May and operational by August.

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In 2017, the JAC gave three \$500 scholarships to Grant County graduates.