

Farmers market kicks off season with new manager

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

New John Day Farmers Market manager Anna Stargel said she's excited about the potential of the market, which is now in its ninth year.

The farmers market is open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays at Southwest Brent Street and Main Street, west of the stoplight in John Day. The market season culminates with a Harvest Festival on Oct. 20.



Anna Stargel

Sixteen vendors kicked off the ninth annual season June 16, offering greens, strawberries, eggs and beef jerky, as well as scratch-made raspberry pies, breads and jams. Soaps, lotions, woodcrafts, jewelry, hand-sewn items and more were also available.

"I think we had a great turnout," Stargel said of the opening day. "We had some really good feedback."

She and the market's board of directors are seeking additional vendors, and they are especially interested in bolstering the produce section with more vegetables, fruit, meat and honey.

"I would love to see Brent Street packed from Main Street," she said.

Stargel was hired in early June by Sally Bartlett of the Grant County Economic Development Department through a Ford Family Foundation grant.

The Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers, the Johnson family and vocalist/guitarist Gary Battles have provided music at the Grant County Jammers booth, organized by Ron Phillips.

Phillips said he welcomes other musicians.

"We rotate in the circle so everybody gets to perform," he said. "It (music) does the heart good."

Peggy Murphy, curator of Grant County Historical Museum in Canyon City, has been on hand with a children's activity.

"It's really nice to see family vendors come to the market and sell directly to families," Stargel said. "It's a great connection, and it shows off Grant County and Eastern Oregon's personality and what we have to offer."

Sherrie Rininger, owner of Etc. near the Farmers Market, has been the market manager in the past and is currently an adviser on the board of directors.

She said having Stargel



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Gary Battles performs at Saturday's John Day Farmers Market at the Grant County Jammers booth.



From left, Mercedes Locke, Jesse Douglass and Katie Shockley man the salsa garden and craft booth at the farmers market. See more photos at myeaglenews.com.

is helpful, as it can be difficult to maintain a booth while also dealing with the management duties, which were provided on a volunteer basis.

"She can stay focused on the manager's responsibility," Rininger said. "She's a delight and brings a lot of energy to the market. She's got some great ideas."

Stargel said, as produce comes into harvest, the momentum of the market will increase.

The taste of a summertime vine-ripened tomato can't be beat, compared to those available in December, she said.

As the farmers market represents the community, Stargel said she hopes for

ideas and suggestions from area residents.

She said, if a person thinks they may be interested in joining the farmers market, "don't be hesitant" to give her a call to talk about it.

Cost for a booth is \$5 per Saturday or \$65 for the entire season.

For more information, call Stargel at 229-869-2136 or visit johndayfarmersmarket.com, which has the vendor application and rules and guidelines.

Grand marshals honored at three Fourth of July parades

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

What better way to celebrate Independence Day than with a parade?

Three Grant County parades will honor grand marshals representing Dayville, Monument and Prairie City on Wednesday, July 4.

Monument — Judy Harris

Grand Marshal Judy Harris will be in Monument's Fourth of July Jubilee parade at 10 a.m.

She says what makes her town special is the way people look out for one another.

Harris, born in Bend, spent most of her first 18 years in Monument. Her dad worked at the sawmill in town and her mom raised a large garden.

"I loved the freedom of being able to ride horses, swimming in the creek and the closeness of the community," she said.

She was gone for 50 years and came home with her husband, Aaron, three years ago.

Harris said, while living away from Monument, she stayed in close contact with the residents, including family members.

"The friendship has never left," she said. "There are still a lot of people that I went to school with who still live here."

She worked for 27 years at Woodgrain Millwork, seven years in the mill and 20 in the office. She and her husband also had a farm in Culver.

Married for 53 years, the couple have two daughters, Julie Erickson of Condon and Trisha Jones of Lone Pine, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Harris has been the fundraising chairman for the Monument Senior Center, helping raise tens of thousands of dollars for the facility, which is a town hub, through grants and fundraising events, such as the Buckaroo Festival. She and her husband also volunteer for the local food bank, and she's involved in the local Quilts of Valor project, which is a nonprofit group sewing quilts for local veterans.

Harris said she's looking forward to seeing the craft vendors, people of all ages playing old-fashioned games in the park and seeing the fireworks over the

river on the Fourth.

She added 4-H kids will hold a color run that morning, the Long Creek chuckwagon will sell food and the Jubilee group will have hot dogs, snowcones and cotton candy available.

"I enjoy the entire community and the camaraderie," she said.

Dayville — Mary MacArthur

Grand Marshal Mary MacArthur will ride horseback in the Dayville parade at 10 a.m.

She said the holiday brings families together for reunions, and former residents return to the hometown to take part. Visitors also enjoy the festivities.

A native of Grant County, MacArthur said she's had a "lifelong love of horses," and was involved in the Fourth of July Five-Mile Horse Race that was once a highlight of the day's celebration.

Sometimes she was director of the race, and other times she rode in it.

She was born in Seneca and also lived in John Day, graduating from Grant Union High School in 1954. MacArthur's parents were Jack and Edith Pocock.

In 1959, she moved to Dayville and has been a resident since that time.

Her first 13 years in Dayville were on the Mascall Ranch, and her children are Suzan Mascall and John Mascall.

MacArthur is well-known as a former Dayville School secretary, starting in the fall of 1973 and retiring in the spring of 2000. Prior to that she worked at the Blue Mountain Eagle for a few years when John Moreau was the editor.

She has been Dayville's city recorder and she served on the Dayville school board. She's still on the Cummings Ditch Board, which supplies the city and ranchers with irrigation water.

MacArthur said she enjoys living in Dayville.

"It's a good place to live, where everybody minds their own business, yet they're proud of their community and take care of it," she said. "It's just good people and a good life."

Prairie City — Dean Hicks

Prairie City native Dean Hicks will be driving his 1991 Corvette as this year's Fourth of July Parade grand marshal at noon.

Hicks said Prairie City was an ideal place to grow up.

"It was a good place to be as a child, being involved in the community," he said, adding he also enjoyed hunting and fishing, as well as waterskiing at nearby Unity Lake and Phillips Reservoir.

Hicks spent most of his years in the timber and sawmill industry, and was also fire chief of the Prairie City Volunteer Fire Department for 12 years, serving the department for a total of 27 years.

"In 1975, I started working for Hudspeth Lumber Co., the day after I graduated high school," he said. "Later, I bought my own skidder and skidded logs for Prairie Wood Products. I worked for Charlie O'Rourke for 12 years, then Grant Western Lumber Company, then ended up at Prairie Wood."

After Prairie Wood closed, he was a corrections deputy for the Grant County Sheriff's Department for two years.

He and his wife, Barbara, were high school sweethearts and have been married for 42 years.

They have two sons, John Hicks and Eddy Hicks, and four grandchildren. Both sons also spent some time as Prairie City volunteer firefighters.

Dean said his parents settled in the area close to 70 years ago. His mother is Ileta Hicks, and his father, the late Noble Hicks, passed away in 2015.

He said, although the town has been changing, "the people have been a pretty close community."



Dean Hicks

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Katee Hoffman

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7-7-18

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