

## New superintendent/principal leads Monument School

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Donald Petersen is at the helm as Monument School's new superintendent/principal.

He came on board in early July, picking up where interim superintendent/principal Michael Lane left off. Lane came out of retirement to join Monument School for most of the 2017-18 school year.

Petersen said the moment he set eyes on Monument it felt like home to him. He and his wife, Madeline, will also enjoy living nearer to their six grown daughters, he said.

Petersen was previously the director of EagleRidge High School, a charter school of about 200 students, for five years in Klamath Falls.

Landing the job in Monument, Petersen will have 47 students at the school.

"I'm not going to come in and make a big wave and change Monument, but I'm going to steady the ship and move forward," he said.

After majoring in agribusiness at University of Nevada-Reno, Petersen began his career working for USS Agri-Chemicals and Simplot Soil Builders.

Having six children in school, he became a member of the school board.

"Watching and supporting great teachers help kids learn how to learn was exciting to me," he said.

He then began a career in education, teaching economics and business computers in Cambridge, Idaho.

He then received a master's in educational technology from Boise State University followed by earning his administrative credential through the University of South Alabama through the Nevada Department of Education.

Before working at EagleRidge, he taught in Gold Beach and ran an alternative education program and charter school, then was head teacher/vice principal at McDermitt, Nevada.

Petersen said over the years he's been a football coach, wrestling coach and produced school yearbooks.

He said his educational in-



Donald Petersen

terests are mainly agriculture, computers, science and math.

"I hope to share that love with the school community," he said.

He said he's looking forward to working with the teachers and staff including Michele Engle, who was given a regional Teacher of the Year award.

"I'm very excited to work with someone of that caliber," Petersen said. "She's doing some projects, and I think I can help her with some project-based learning, like rubrics."

In a letter to the community on the Monument School website, Petersen said he enjoys working with school staff to set and achieve goals.

"This will include working with the community and parents in continuing traditions of achievement," he wrote.

"I feel a responsibility to parents to be an advocate for their students at school," he continued. "I believe that being an advocate for students helps support them and builds a strong team approach with parents, students, teachers and administrator all working for successful learning."

Maria Thomas, the school board vice chairman, said she's looking forward to working with Petersen.

"He's very qualified with loads of experience, and he seems like he would be a good fit for our district," she said.

Petersen has a positive outlook, starting out at Monument School.

"It has been a very fiscally responsible school, so I'm stepping into a really good situation," he said. "I'm going to have to work hard to keep up with their traditions that way."

## Film crew comes to Kam Wah Chung

### Documentary will be for Chinese television

By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle

A documentary film crew was at the historic Kam Wah Chung store in John Day recently, but it wasn't the long anticipated Discovery Channel film crew.

Camera and sound technicians from Yiping Media Group of Shenzhen, China, are working on a documentary about the spread of Chinese herbal medicine around the world.

Two weeks earlier, they were filming Professor Zhao Zhongzhen and Eric Brand as they studied Chinese herbs in the vast botanical collection at the Natural History Museum in London, England. Brand, from Boulder, Colorado, was a student of Zhongzhen's in Hong Kong and is fluent in Chinese.

Zhongzhen is a professor at the School of Chinese Medicine in Hong Kong, where Brand did his doctoral thesis. Zhongzhen also heads a government-run testing center to ensure quality of Chinese herbs.

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the birth of Li Shizhen, considered the father of Chinese medicine. Recognizing past errors accumulating over the centuries, Shizhen went to work properly identifying and categorizing all the herbal medicines used in China.

Zhongzhen and Brand traveled to John Day last year to inspect the unusual Chinese herbal collection at the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site and promised to return.

Zhongzhen told the Eagle at the time that it was his dream to come to the museum. Last year's visit was also a scouting trip for the Discovery Channel's planned five-part documentary on Chinese herbal medicine. A portion on Kam Wah Chung may be filmed next year.

In the meantime, Zhong-



Eagle photos/Richard Hanners

**A cameraman from Yiping Media Group films Professor Zhao Zhongzhen from the School of Chinese Medicine in Hong Kong at the historic Kam Wah Chung store in John Day on Aug. 1.**



**Eric Brand and Professor Zhao Zhongzhen from the School of Chinese Medicine in Hong Kong look at herbal specimens found at the historic Kam Wah Chung store in the archives building in John Day.**

zhen found a donor to back a different film project, a smaller one that will be produced in the Chinese language and broadcast on Chinese television.

Zhongzhen was game to walking up and down the wooden staircase on the front of the historic trading post as the cameras rolled under the direction of the film crew's producer, despite the heat wave John Day had been experiencing.

"It's hotter in China," one of the cameramen told the Eagle.

Liz Qi, from Los Angeles, served as a translator for the film crew. Her mother came to the United States in 1991 and ran a successful Chinese herbal medicine clinic. Qi graduated from a traditional pharmacy school last year but also has an interest in

Chinese herbal medicines.

"My interest in pharmacy came from my mother," she said.

After lunch, Zhongzhen and Brand accompanied museum curator Don Merritt to the Kam Wah Chung archives where they inspected herbs sent from China to John Day.

"This is their original paper packaging," Merritt said.

Chinese goods shipped to John Day in the 1860s and 1870s came to San Francisco. They were transported by wagons to Portland, shipped up the Columbia River and then transferred to horse-drawn wagons for the leg to Baker City and on to Grant County.

"The trip took six weeks from Hong Kong to Prairie City," Merritt said.

More modern artifacts dis-

covered by curators in the Kam Wah Chung site among the top 10 Chinese herbal medicine sites in the world. While historic documents and botanical specimens can be found in other locations, the Kam Wah Chung collection includes complete records of people who came in for treatment by Ing "Doc" Hay — from diagnosis and prescription to repeat visits.

As they sorted through the herbal collection in the archives building, Zhongzhen grew excited about a find. It was a package of an herb used for sinus congestion — the exact same herb he wrote about for a thesis in 1982.

He and Brand also found aged tangerine peels. The medicinal properties of the peels is related to their age, Brand noted, and these samples were 100 years older than most that are sold.

They also found coins dating to the time of the first three emperors of the Qing dynasty. They were collectibles, not viable currency, Zhongzhen noted.

"The grandfather, father and son," he said, pointing to the coins.

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Hello Grant County,

Can you believe that it is already Fair time and time for school to start soon? Where did the summer go?

The date for the monthly Chamber meeting has changed this month. We will be meeting on Wednesday, August 22. The Chamber board will meet at 10:30 at the Chamber office. The no-host membership luncheon will follow at 12:00 at the Outpost restaurant. This month's speakers will be Brett Upmore, the new School District #3 Superintendent, and Chris Rush, the new publisher for the Blue Mountain Eagle. We hope you can come and meet them.

Everyone is welcome to come to our meetings.

We've heard that the 109th Grant County Fair is going to be bigger and better than ever! Come down and show your support! Make sure to take in the parades and get your tickets to see Lonestar in concert.

Don't forget to check out the Farmer's Market every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Saturday, August 18, the Blue Mountain Book Fair will be held in the Canyon City Community Hall.

Nine local and regional authors will be on hand with their books. Stop in and buy a book and get it autographed!

Plans are in the works for our annual Installation Dinner. It is looking like it will be in late October. We will get the information out just as soon as we firm up the plans.

Enjoy the rest of summer in Grant County!

Tammy Bremner  
Chamber Manager

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