

# 'Pro-America' comedy tour coming to John Day

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — A "pro-America" comedy show is coming to the Grant County Fairgrounds on Oct. 1.

"Stand-Up 4 America: Comedy for Patriots," featuring comedians Alex Elkin and Chris Warren, is, according to organizers, completely "pro-America" and positive toward men and women serving in the military.

Elkin told the Eagle that he and Warren had gone to Iraq to entertain the troops and that they both "still have a love for America," and that is why they are putting on the show.

"We want to celebrate the wonderful things this country has to offer," he said, "which are freedom, capitalism and sovereignty."

Elkin said the family-friendly show incorporates stand-up comedy, animation, music, puppetry, audience interaction, and slides from their time entertaining troops abroad.

Elkin said while the show is appropriate for all ages, the minimum age they recommend is 14 so that younger kids are not "twiddling their thumbs" with nothing to do.

The show kicks off at 8 and winds down at 10 p.m. For ticket information, visit [su4a.com](http://su4a.com).

## EXTREME COMPETITION



A young competitor pedals his scooter at the Smokey Gibson Skate Park at Seventh Street Complex in John Day during the Extreme Tour 2021 on Aug. 29.

Blue Mountain Eagle/Steven Mitchell

# Wallowa-Whitman's new supervisor starts work next month

Baker City Herald

PORTLAND — The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will soon have a new leader.

Shaun McKinney will become the supervisor for the 2.4 million-acre Wallowa-Whitman, which is based in Baker City.

Glenn Casamassa, Pacific Northwest regional forester for the U.S. Forest Service, announced Monday, Sept. 20, that McKinney will start his new job in late October.

McKinney will replace Thomas Montoya, who retired June 1.

McKinney joins the Forest Service from the West National Technology Support Center, where he leads a team providing direct assistance, training and innovative natural resources technological solutions to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff throughout the western United States.

"Shaun has worked in both public and private land conservation, drawing on his background as a fisheries biologist to inform his strategic direction and oversight of a large team tasked with



Shaun McKinney

developing and implementing innovative technical solutions for field science staff working on a variety of

complex natural resource issues," Casamassa said in a press release. "His considerable experience in organizational leadership, science-based decision-making, and innovative problem-solving will serve him well as he serves the residents and communities of Eastern Oregon as Forest Supervisor on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest."

McKinney has a masters of fisheries science and statistics from Oregon State University and a bachelor of science from Michigan State University.

"I'm looking forward to returning to the Blue Mountains, where I began my career, to work together with the staff, communities and partners on healthy ecosystems and economies. It will be an exciting next chapter filled with challenges and opportunities," McKinney said.

# Farm to farm: Water from NE Oregon data centers reused for agriculture

By GEORGE PLAVERN  
Capital Press

UMATILLA, Ore. — The tiny city of Umatilla, Ore., and the internet giant Amazon have come up with a unique use for the cooling water from the company's massive server farms.

They are using it irrigate the region's other farms — the kind that grow crops.

Perched along the Columbia River in northeast Oregon, Umatilla is a haven for irrigated agriculture where farmers grow everything from hay and wheat to high-value potatoes, onions, carrots and melons.

In 2009, Amazon broke ground on its first campus of data centers in Umatilla. Data centers are large warehouses filled with computer servers. All the information gathered by websites like Amazon and Facebook is stored in the server farms.

Amazon was attracted to the Columbia Basin, in part, by the availability of clean water that could be used in cooling systems for all those servers. A single data center consumes between 250,000 and 1 million gallons of water per day in the warmer summer months, when outside temperatures can top 100 degrees.

That water is still mostly clean once it comes out the other end, said Umatilla city manager Dave Stockdale.

With two data center campuses now online and another two being built, Stockdale said it didn't make sense, nor was there capacity, to treat all that mostly clean water at the city's sewer plant.

Both the city and Amazon began pondering ways



Wikimedia/Capital Press

Umatilla, Ore., and Amazon have built a system for using cooling water from the internet giant's server farms to irrigate the region's farms.

they could reuse the water, adding benefit for the community.

The answer, they decided, was to deliver the water to the same farmers that have powered Umatilla's economy for decades.

"To take this new age technology and sort of marry it to our traditional roots, especially in Umatilla which has always been an agricultural community ... in reality, they actually worked out in a great symbiotic relationship," Stockdale said.

The cooling water from Amazon is piped to an irrigation canal run by the West Extension Irrigation District, which serves 10,400 acres of farmland.

The project broke ground in 2019, with roughly 7 miles of pipe that run from the data center campuses to a new headworks on the district's canal at the north-east end of the city.

From there, the water flows about 1,200 feet allowing it to mix with the

district's water pumped directly from the Columbia River, diluting any excess salts and reaching a suitable pH level before it can be used for irrigation.

Stockdale said the infrastructure cost a little more than \$5 million. So far, Amazon is the only customer on the new system, though that could change with future developments.

Water deliveries began in 2020. This year, Stockdale estimated they provided enough water for farmers to grow an additional 1,000 acres of crops, all with existing water rights.

"Technically, it's the city's water in the irrigation district's canal," Stockdale said. "If a farmer wants access to additional water, they have additional water capacity available to them through this system."

The value of agriculture in arid Eastern Oregon grows exponentially with water.

Dryland wheat grown

without irrigation yields roughly \$100 per acre. Adding 1 acre-foot of water increases the crop's value to \$500 per acre. At 3 acre-feet of water, and farms can earn up to \$5,000 per acre growing higher value specialty crops.

An acre-foot covers an area about the size of a football field with 1 foot of water, or about 325,851 gallons.

As more data centers come online in Umatilla in the coming years, Stockdale said the city is examining other potential uses for the water in addition to irrigation, such as repairing wetlands in the area for wildlife.

"We continue to look at ways to be good environmental stewards of our resources," Stockdale said.

A spokesperson for Amazon Web Services said the project is the first of its kind in Oregon and for the company, and the goal is to increase water reuse at its northeast Oregon data centers to 100%.

## Grant Union High School class of 1971 to hold 50th reunion

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Grant Union's class of 1971 will hold its 50-year reunion this week.

The celebration will kick off with a no-host gathering from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24, at the Outpost Bar and Grill.

On Saturday, Sept. 25, the group will meet at

Clyde Holliday Park in Mt. Vernon for a potluck at noon and a class picture at 2 p.m.

According to the organizer, the main entree, table service, and water will be provided, but they ask attendees to bring finger foods, drinks and chairs.

For more information, call 541-797-3300 or email [swanksters@yahoo.com](mailto:swanksters@yahoo.com).

## OBITUARIES

### Iantha Sinner (Larkin)

March 27, 1947 — Sept. 12, 2021

Mrs. Sinner died Sept. 12, 2021, after a long, arduous battle with Alzheimer's disease. Iantha (Ann) was born to William (Bill) and Patricia (Pat) Larkin and attended schools in John Day, Oregon, before beginning a career spanning over 32 years for the U.S. federal government.

Ann began her career as a stenographer working at the Pentagon and completed over four years of exemplary service for the materials division at the Department of Navy. In 1974 Ann returned home to take a job with the Army Corps of Engineers. Her accolades and professional relationships with the corps, too many to detail, again were among the most successful for over 28 years.

Between 1975 and 1978 she met the man who would capture her heart. John L. Sinner was a Navy veteran who worked as a structural foreman at the Corps of Engineers. Their courtship soon flourished as they were married in December 1981. They would spend many wonderful years together traveling, enjoying sporting events, and most of all family. They lived life to the fullest for many years until John passed away in 1994.

Following her wonderful years with John, she dedicated her life to family, especially holidays where she hosted many Christmas gatherings. Her attention to detail and love of her family while gifting personalized Christmas stockings made everyone feel loved and important. This is only one small example of her enormous generosity.

Mrs. Sinner is survived by her sister Pamela Rowley-Butcher, nephews Randy Stockwell, Travis Hudson, Tyler and Tracy Hudson, niece Celeste Courtain and numerous other beloved family members. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband John, and her sister Carol.



### Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Tuesday .....	79/39
Wednesday .....	75/46
Thursday.....	78/52
Friday.....	72/46
Saturday.....	64/41
Sunday.....	64/32
Monday.....	72/38

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY  
162.500 MHZ

### WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 22-28

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Sunny	Sunny	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy
<b>77</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>45</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>46</b>