

City names interim manager

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle



Ketchum

JOHN DAY — The search for a successor to John Day City Manager Nick Green is over, at least for now.

Community Development Director Corum Ketchum was appointed interim city manager during the May 10 City Council session. The appointment is for a six-month trial period, after which the city can either hire Ketchum into the position permanently or fall back on its earlier plan to have Washington-based CMP Consultants search for qualified candidates. The council approved the appointment

in a unanimous vote.

Ketchum would resume his role as community development director if the city decides to find another candidate for the city manager position following the trial period. During that six-month period, Ketchum will work both as the city manager and as community development director until the city fills Ketchum's old post via contract.

"I'll be wearing a couple different hats for a while," Ketchum said.

The move was a potential cost-saving measure as well as a necessity. Appointing Ketchum saves the city \$25,000 that would've gone to CMP Consultants for their efforts in searching for qualified candidates to fill the vacancy. The city also needs a city manager in place to shepherd projects that are just starting to get off the ground.

The hire wasn't without concerns, however. Ketchum is just out of college, and the community development director job was his first post following the completion of his studies. Ketchum doesn't have experience being a manager, and he's only been in his current

role since early March.

Those concerns are all things Green says can be mitigated through mentorship and the support of veteran city agency staff. Green, who will be stepping down by the end of next month, has agreed to mentor Ketchum and help him settle into the role of city manager.

Being a city manager was always a goal for Ketchum.

"I just didn't think it would happen this fast," he said.

Ketchum also admits that he has some learning to do but adds that Green is doing a good job of mentoring him as he takes on the responsibility of city manager.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Local students earn high marks

LA GRANDE — A half-dozen Grant County students have been recognized for academic achievement by Eastern Oregon University.

Named to the dean's list for winter term were Samantha Choate, Ellie Justice, Fallon Weaver and Kalli Wilson of John Day and Caitlin Willet and Declan Zweygardt of Prairie City.

The EOU dean's list honors students who maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or above while taking at least 12 credit hours of coursework.

BEO names new board officers

HEPPNER — BEO Bancorp and its subsidiary, the Bank of Eastern Oregon, elected new officers at their annual shareholders meeting.

Brad Anderson of Arlington and Hood River was named chairman of the bank's board of directors, and Bob Armstrong of John Day was named vice chairman.

Anderson is a partner in Triangle Ranches, a wheat and cattle operation in Gilliam and Morrow Counties. Armstrong is a certified public accountant with Solutions CPAs.

Both have served on the board since 2004.

PUC adopts power shutoff rules

SALEM — The Oregon Public Utility Commission has adopted permanent rules governing public safety power shutoffs, the agency announced.

Temporary rules were enacted after wildfires burned nearly 1 million acres across the state in 2020.

The permanent rules spell out steps that investor-owned electric utilities — including Portland General Electric, Pacific Power and Idaho Power — are required to take when they decide to shut off power lines during extreme weather conditions, when the lines pose a risk of starting a wildfire.

Among other things, the rules require utilities to notify public safety partners, state agencies, local jurisdictions and the public of the need for a power shutoff and provide updates every 24 hours until service is restored.

De-energizing power lines is considered a "strategy of last resort" because of the impact from the loss of electrical power on such critical activities as the use of home medical devices, the ability to call 911 and the ability to pump water, the PUC noted in a press release.

Tribal student aid program begins

SALEM — The Higher Education Coordinating Commission is accepting applications for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant, a new financial aid program intended to pay most or all college-related expenses for eligible students attending public colleges in the state.

Assistance is available to enrolled members of Oregon's nine federally recognized Indian tribes, including the Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Klamath Tribes.

Students can apply online at <https://tinyurl.com/2k4arwkp>. The deadline is Aug. 1.

— Blue Mountain Eagle

Hospital CEO to step down



By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Blue Mountain Hospital District's chief executive officer is stepping down after nearly six years on the job.

According to a Tuesday, May 10, press release from the hospital, Derek Daly's last day as CEO will be Aug. 3.

In the press release, Daly said he and his young family will be moving out of the area to be closer to family in the Midwest, where he will take a

job heading up a larger hospital as CEO.

Daly said taking the helm of the unnamed hospital comes at a time and location that is a better fit for him and his family.

"Major life changes," he said, "including the recent addition of a child to our family, have motivated us to relocate closer to both of our families and the support system they provide."

Daly added that his motivation for moving on is not entirely career-driven.

"If this opportunity were

solely for professional reasons, I would not be making this transition," he said. "It is the combination of professional opportunity and personal/family need converging at the same time that make this the right thing for my family."

In the press release, the hospital board noted that it will be looking for an interim CEO to "support a productive handoff" when Daly departs in the summer. Simultaneously, according to the press release, the board will begin looking for a permanent CEO.

Monument couple to lead '62 Days Parade

Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — Rusty and Peggy Clark, a Monument couple with deep family ties to Grant County, have been selected grand marshals of this year's '62 Days Parade by the Whiskey Gulch Gang, the group that organizes the annual celebration of Canyon City's boomtown beginnings.

"They've been good people in the community for a long time," said Colby Farrell, president of the Whiskey Gulch Gang. "We try to pick people ... who represent the spirit of 1862."

The Clarks plan to ride horses in the parade, which is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. on June 11 in Canyon City, Farrell said.

Rusty (George) Clark was born at the Canyon City home of his parents, Harold and Wanda Clark, in 1941,



Contributed Photo

Rusty and Peggy Clark of Monument have been selected to serve as grand marshals for the 2022 '62 Days Parade.

according to information provided by the family. His paternal great-grandparents, Martin and Anna Lucas, came to Grant County in 1867, shortly after the Civil War, and Martin helped

build Camp Harney. He also built the Episcopal church that still stands in Canyon City, the family said.

Martin and Anna Lucas raised four daughters and one son. Rusty's grandmother, Annetta Lucas Clark, was said to be the first white child born in Grant County, in June of 1878. Annetta was a schoolteacher in Canyon City for many years and after retirement she served as the school janitor. Annetta was named the '62 Days Pioneer Queen in 1957.

Peggy Lowry Clark moved to Grant County at age 14 from Crook County. Her parents, Charles and Sally Lowry, owned and operated a ranch on Moon Creek west of Mt. Vernon, where she and Rusty became neighbors. Their families became quick friends. After they finished high school, Peggy and Rusty were married on March 10, 1961.

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Thank You

I recently went through stem cell treatment in Florida to help regain my eyesight. The doctor was very pleased with the treatment and expects some good sight restoration in three to six months. I am seeing some results now.

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers and for their monetary support. A special thanks to the members and staff of the John Day Golf Course and to all my family members.

*A sincere thank you from
Dan & Phyllis Propeck & Family*

Grape and Grain draws a crowd

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grape and Grain wine and beer festival returned to Grant County after an almost decade-long absence.

The event took place in the Trowbridge Pavilion at the Grant County Fairgrounds on Friday, May 13, and was put on by the Grant County Chamber of Commerce. Area wineries and breweries were on hand, along with cheese, chocolate and meat vendors to allow patrons to sample and purchase their products.

Brewers and wineries in attendance were Echo Ridge Cellars out of Echo, Faith Hope & Charity Vineyards out of Terrebonne, Los Rocosos Vineyards of Milton-Freewater and 1188 Brewing of John Day. Other vendors included the Etc. Boutique out of John Day, Strange Magic Bakery of Prairie City and Juan's Fresh Salsa of Prairie City, among others.

Amanda Moss of Strange Magic said the bakery is a joint project between herself



Patrons visit booths and socialize during the Grape and Grain festival in Trowbridge Pavilion at the Grant County Fairgrounds on Friday, May 13, 2022.

"We decided instead of doing that, let's do a party. Kind of like a reopening of the county. We knew something like this had been done before so we thought we could re-create it."

Bremner said the festival was first planned to happen in October, but that's when wineries are harvesting their grape crops. The festival was moved to late spring to accommodate the wine vendors.

Bremner says the event was right at the goal of 150 attendees. "We had 150 token packages done and they were all gone. We did let vendors have some but I think we were right there."

The success of the festival has already led to requests for an even bigger event next year. All of the vendors that came this year are wanting to return next year but Bremner says expansion is really a matter of space in accommodating more vendors and larger crowds.

"I was thinking: How are we going to do that? It would be nice, but we really have to think about how we're going to make everything fit."

and her mother and has been in operation for about nine months. "My mom and I bake out of our kitchen right now until we can get our own spot. We're going to be at the farmers market that starts in June."

Juan Rubio of Juan's Fresh Salsa said he has been making salsa for about a year and currently has his wares for sale in supermarkets and stores throughout the county.

Rubio says he doesn't have mild, medium and hot designations for his salsa. "I'm

not that guy," he said. Instead, Rubio's salsa heat is broken down into wimpy, normal and caution.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tammy Bremner said the chamber was looking for an event that would get the community going again after the COVID-related business shutdowns of the last two years.

"We normally do an installation dinner in the fall where we install our new officers that are coming in July 1," she said.

Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Wednesday	55/37
Thursday	50/32
Friday	52/41
Saturday	65/44
Sunday	66/47
Monday	64/38
Tuesday	68/45

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 MAY 18-24

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
65	48	60	65	67	66	63
37	33	37	44	46	46	44