

'62 Days Celebration kicks off in Canyon City Friday

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

camaraderie, rich history and the town's enduring sense of community, which began long ago when gold miners struck paydirt.

Colby Farrell of the Whiskey Gulch Gang, the group that organizes the celebration, said the "spirit of 1862" comes from the people who settled in Canyon City in 1862 not just to get rich but to stay and build a community that endures to this day.

"They chose to stay here and build something and make something, and (Grant County) is a pretty good place," he said. "Despite everything that's going on in the world right now, it's still a pretty unique, special place."

CANYON CITY — Grant County's '62 Days Celebration will kick off its 101st year Friday, June 10, at Sel's Brewery in Canyon City.

The two-day event, which commemorates the discovery of gold in Canyon City in 1862, will feature vendors on both nights of the festival.

The festivities include a mock gunfight, a mock hanging, a 5K Gold Rush Run and Walk, a dunk tank, a cornhole tournament and more. The annual tradition highlights the "spirit of 1862" and Canyon City's colorful culture,

IF YOU GO

Friday, June 10

The 101st '62 Days Celebration kicks off at 4 p.m. with live music by Copper Ridge starting around 8:30 p.m.

Cornhole tournament hosted by John Day/Canyon City Parks and Rec and Community Health Improvement Coalition at 4:30 p.m.

Chili cook-off will begin in the late afternoon, early evening; contact Bill at 208-870-8216 for info

Art show hosted by Painted Sky at the Canyon City Community Hall from 6 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 11

Miners' breakfast in the Canyon City Firehall sponsored by Old West Federal Credit Union beginning at 7 a.m.

Gold Rush Run, 8 a.m. at Sel's Brewery with registration from 7-7:45 a.m. The cost is \$22 to register the day of the race and \$20 before. Registration forms are available at the Chamber of Commerce office.

Parade at 11 a.m. with lineup starting at 9 a.m., organized by the Luce Creek Livestock 4H group at Humboldt Elementary School

Kids' events and games begin after the parade, approximately at noon,

along with music in the park by the James Gang and Sel's opening the doors

Art show continues from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dunk tank featuring Grant/Harney County Circuit Court Judge Rob Raschio and Canyon City Mayor Steve Fischer beginning at 1 p.m.

Mock gunfight and hanging, 2 p.m. at Sel's Brewery

Medicine Wagon show by Painted Sky Center for the Arts beginning 2:30 p.m., featuring an open mic talent show, beard contest and old-time dress-up contest

Building a 'foodie destination' in Dayville

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: Guyon Springs, an organic farm with a restaurant, farm store, Airbnb rentals, and community supported agriculture subscriptions.

WHERE: 28734 South Fork Road, Dayville

WHEN: Breakfast served 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays; three seatings on Sundays at 9, 10 and 11 a.m.

Farm store open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday, with grab and go ice cream sandwiches starting in two weeks

CONTACT: 541-602-0303, ksungspiral@yahoo.com

ON THE WEB: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Guyon-Springs/100076844379124/>

DAYVILLE — Guyon Springs wants to be your next vacation or meal destination.

Owners Jim and Kerri Latashaw, along with their son William, have been cultivating the idea of Guyon Springs as an organic farm, restaurant and Airbnb destination since 2016. They started with a large, no-till garden and have expanded to include a restaurant, three Airbnb units, a catering service and community supported agriculture venture, all contained on a 120-acre property on the outskirts of Dayville.

Both Jim and Kerri are teachers in Mitchell when they aren't operating Guyon Springs. Jim is a science and agriculture teacher, wife Kerri teaches language arts and art. Drew Crossley and Jackie Stuber, an engaged couple, joined the business in 2021 and have been a "tremendous asset," according to Kerri. Stuber brings a bachelor of science in pastry along with a professional background as a pastry chef and cook to the project. Crossley brings a communications degree with an art background in addition to kitchen experience.

Kerri said everything Guyon Springs has evolved into really started with that original garden in 2016.

"We built that bed and water holding tanks that are filled by the spring," she said. "Once we put that system together and built that enclosure, that's when we really got into it. It's fun. ... I've been teaching 20 years. I'll retire in a couple years, but I want to do this when I retire."

Expansion began in 2020 following the acquisition of the property below the off-grid farm the Latashaw family lives on. That land acquisition has allowed the farming operation to grow

into a 1/2-acre plot for vegetables and a 1/8-acre plot for flowers and culinary herbs. A saddle shop on the property was revamped into a farm store and restaurant that sells the produce grown on site while serving breakfast on Saturdays and Sundays.

The store is open to anyone who wishes to come in and buy produce, while the restaurant is reservation only. Also in the works is a wood-fired pizza oven and weekly pizza nights. Catering with a specialization in barbecue is also offered at Guyon Springs.

All the produce is grown using regenerative agriculture and certified organic means.

Regenerative agriculture eliminates the need to use pesticides or herbicides and emphasizes soil health. Cover cropping, crop rotation, plant diversity, perennial plants, zero tillage, mulching, composting and animal integration are all a part of a strategy that focuses on capturing carbon within the soil. The goal, according to Kerri, is to bring high-quality food that inspires a level of community.

The food grown on site will also be offered to the public in the

form of community supported agriculture.

"That's where people share in the risk of farming," Kerri said. "They essentially buy up front. It's \$600 a year and you get 20 weeks of produce starting from May through October. You get a box each week with a variety of

vegetables. It's a popular model for a lot of people that want to know where their food is coming from and want to be associated with the growers."

The ultimate goal, according to Kerri, is for Guyon Springs to be known as a "foodie destination."

Grant schools pass \$24.3M budget

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — The Grant School Board has passed a \$24.3 million budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

The budget, originally proposed on May 4 and adopted at the board's Wednesday, June 1, meeting, will go into effect on July 1.

Also passed was a property tax rate of \$1.6468 per \$1,000 of

assessed home value. The tax covers all properties located within the district and will take effect on July 1.

As previously reported, the 2022-23 school is 18% higher than it was during the current fiscal year despite a drop in enrollment for Grant School District schools. The district is also adding the equivalent of 13 staff positions.

The approved budget calls for 99.45 full-time-equivalent positions and 106 employees overall.

This year's budget called for 86.2 full-time-equivalent staff positions and 96 employees overall.

Enrollment in Grant School District was 490 students in March of this year and is expected to drop to 467 for the 2022-23 school year. There were 520 students in schools throughout the district at this time last year and attendance was expected to rise this year, but it dropped instead.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

SATURDAY, JUNE 18 Grant County Farmers Market

• 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., South Washington Street, Canyon City
Locally-grown produce and other items for sale in an open-air setting every Saturday from mid-June through mid-October.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24 "Uncovering the History of Chinese Mining in Eastern Oregon"

• 7 p.m., Canyon City



SATURDAY, JUNE 25 Summer Kickoff 5K

• 8 a.m., Grant County Fairgrounds, 411 NW Bridge St., John Day

The John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation District and Grant County CHIC sponsor this 5K walk/run event, which starts and ends at the fairgrounds. Registration is free for those 18 or under and \$5 for adults. To register online, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yhey33pc>.

Community Hall, 129 S. Washington St.

Free presentation by Donn Hann, William F. Willingham and Katee Withee on the history of Chinese mining companies in Eastern Oregon. Sponsored by the Oregon Historical Society.



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