

Getting to know new leaders

Pat Haley, Quincy city administrator

New leadership: This interview helps residents get acquainted with one of the new people leading an organization and shaping the Columbia Basin. Look for more in the future.

Quincy City Administrator Pat Haley is relatively new to Quincy. He took over the city administrator position after Tim Snead retired last year. Snead had been city administrator for 14 years.

By RACHAL PINKERTON
Staff Writer

Haley doesn't consider himself an outsider, but a neighbor. The Columbia Basin Herald recently sat down with Haley to learn more about him, his job and what he would like to see happen in the city of Quincy. Edits were made for space and clarity.

Question: Tell me about yourself.

Answer: I'm a West sider. I went to high school in Seattle.

I went to college at Central Washington University. I had a job at Fitterer Brothers Furniture. That was my first Eastern Washington experience as a West sider. I liked the sunshine and country life.

I moved to Wenatchee and got married. I worked in radio and moved into advertising. I found out that I was pretty good at writing copy for radio advertising.

After radio, I had my own company, Cole and Haley Productions. I left the area for a season to work for a large company in California. I didn't like the city life. So we moved back to Wenatchee. I was director of marketing for a startup, but they went out of business. My wife is from Wenatchee. So I asked myself, "What do I have to do to have a career in Wenatchee?"

I went back to school and studied civil engineering at Washington State University. We had three kids by then. I was a little older and not as susceptible to distractions. I was 38 years old when I graduated and went to work for the Douglas County PUD.

After that, I went to work for the Port of Douglas County and did that for 10 years. I left the port to do private consulting work. I wanted to stay in the area and was looking for a senior executive level position. Then the Quincy position opened up.

I like to think of myself as a neighbor more than an outsider. In coming to Quincy, though I'm not as well known as someone from here, I know some of the same people that you know.

I did run for Douglas County commissioner, District 1, in 2016 and lost by less than 1 percent. Running for office gave me a whole new respect for those who campaign. I am much happier as a city administrator than I would have been as a county commissioner.

I have 35 years of career experience that I brought to the city. I have worked with guys in the 12th Legislative District. We're all neighbors, really.

I have three kids and four grandchildren. My wife was once Apple Blossom Royalty. She was director general in 2012. We are the current Lehman Johnson Award Winners. Our kids did the presentation. It was one of the highlights of our lives to receive that award.

Q: What is one thing about yourself that people may not know?

A: There is a hobby unique to me, that when I start talking about it, nobody has heard about a hobby like that. I collect autobiographies and presidential memoirs and get the author to sign them. I have about 150 books. The presidents from George W. Bush back to (John) Tyler are signed. I had a relative sign for George Washington and John Quincy Adams. I also have astronauts, sports figures, Margaret Thatcher, Nelson Mandela.

I am a consumer of biographies. I find the author or a family member to sign them (the books). There are amazing stories. There are people I have met indirectly. That's not the greatest word — through absentia. Then I get them to sign what they wrote. I often have a letter sent back.

Sometimes you get presents back. Frederick Douglass IV, the great-grandson of Frederick Douglass, goes around as an actor, mimicking Frederick Douglass. He sent me a bottle of Frederick Douglass barbecue sauce.

If you go into my office, you'll see letters from Nixon to Trump. It started with Reagan. I have letters from Nixon, Carter and Ford on their letterhead.

Nixon probably didn't get a lot of thank-you letters.

See HALEY, C2



Rachal Pinkerton/
Columbia Basin Herald

LOCAL EVENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some events have been canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We recommend checking with event organizers before making plans.

MARCH 13

Denim & Diamonds

5:30-10:30 p.m. in the 4-H Building at the Grant County Fairgrounds. Dinner, live auction and silent auction. Tickets are \$70 or \$450 for a table of eight. Proceeds benefit the Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce. It's a Friday night event, so dress in your Friday jeans or dress it up. Info: Lori, 509-765-7888 ext. 100 or information@moseslake.com.

MARCH 14

West Fork Stringband bluegrass concert

Note: This event has been canceled

MARCH 14

Country dance

Note: This event has been canceled

MARCH 14

Hand Picked in concert

10:45 a.m. at the Moses Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1601 W. Valley Rd. Gospel bluegrass music performance featuring traditional and original tunes. Info: 509-765-4273.

MARCH 14-APRIL 4

Eckankar discussion series

1:30-2:30 p.m. Saturdays at the Ephrata Library, 45 Alder St. NW. Topics include prayer, dreams, conquering fear and more. Info: Donna McClung, 509-770-4290.

MARCH 20-22

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

Note: This event has been canceled

MARCH 20

Spokane Jazz Orchestra

7 p.m. at the Wallenstein Theater, Big Bend Community College. Spokane Jazz Orchestra will be playing the original composition of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" and other Gershwin classics. Presented by Columbia Basin Allied Arts. Info: www.cba-arts.org.

APRIL 1

Nature's Storied Landscape

3 p.m. at the Moses Lake Civic Center Auditorium, 401 S. Balsam St. The natural world is a storied landscape. Geologic forces sculpt the stage, as flora and fauna weave their intricate webs throughout. We, too, find ourselves a part of this bigger world around us as our stories intertwine with those of moving rocks, running rivers, bats and bees. Join Ranger Katie Person to better understand and relate to the natural world around us by stories told through song. Free.

To submit a calendar item, e-mail information to paginator@columbiabasinherald.com or fax to 509-765-8659.