SCHOOLS

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demonstrating excitement about on-site learning again being offered. Teachers and staff at the school district's three elementary schools also are elated.

'Overall it is fabulous for us, just having kids," said Central Elementary principal Suzy Mayes.

Kelli Aken, a second-grade teacher at Greenwood Elementary, will likely never forget the sense of anticipation she felt last weekend just before students were about to return.

"It was like I was a firstyear teacher all over again," she said. "I was so excited I could not sleep the night

Greenwood Elementary



6, 2020, as students prepare to board a bus after school.

Dick Mason/The Observer Yolanda Conrad, a teaching assistant at Island City Elementary School, gives a thumbs up signal Tuesday, Oct.

first-grade teacher Katie Burright said she has been impressed with how much the students learned while

they were being taught online.

"It has been amazing to see how much has soaked

doing on assignments the same as walking around a classroom. Goodwin and Island City third-grade teacher

in," Burright said.

She said it is hard to

tell when teaching virtu-

ally how much content stu-

dents are picking up. One

reason is you can only see

a student's face online and

can't view how children are

Holly Wagner are delighted to have students back in their classrooms because like all primary grade teachers they provide reading instruction during a critical phase of children's lives, when they are best able to learn to read.

"It is much easier to teach fundamentals like letter sounds (in person)," Goodwin said.

She also said it is easier

in person to get children to become familiar with books and how to hold them

Familiarizing children with how to use computers, ironically, proved harder while teaching online, Wagner said.

Things we think are simple, like using a mouse to drag something across a screen, took a lot of time to teach students," Wagner

All on-site K-3 students have to follow extensive school district protocols to protect everyone from COVID-19. Students are kept with their classmates all day, are served meals only in their classrooms, must social distance and

Burright said the children are adapting well to school rules for protecting them from COVID-19. She noted her students are maintaining 6-foot distances from one another for social distancing purposes and are being courteous by keeping their distance from classmates.

"That is not typical of first graders," Burright said.

Greenwood Elementary first-grade teacher Jessica Troutman also is impressed with how students have taken to wearing masks.

"It is not a big deal for them at all," she said.

Troutman also noted said students are learning to interact without really touching each other.

"Instead of doing high fives," Troutman said, "they are doing elbow bumps."

MCBURNEY

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The injuries

"The license plate of the vehicle actually severed Keelan's leg, and the impact broke the tibia and the fibula and dislocated the fibula, as well, and cut the femoral artery," Jett said. Another artery and a ligament that connects to the knee also were severed.

As she was heading out to get McBurney, her husband, Lem McBurney, arrived home. A part-timer with the Wallowa County Sheriff's Office, the elder McBurney asked if his son was bleeding.

"I didn't even think to ask," she said, "so I called the boys back and I said, 'Keelan, are you bleeding?' He said, 'Mom, my shoes are filled with blood."

She called Wallowa Memorial Hospital to alert it they probably would be there in about 20 minutes.

The McBurneys arrived at the accident scene as it was getting dark. They saw their son in the driveway on his side in a pool of blood.

"As I was saying, 'We need a tourniquet,' my husband was taking off his belt," Jett said.

The tourniquet was applied above the left knee, where it would stay for more than seven hours. The first emergency personnei to arrive were from the Joseph Fire Department, Jett said.

They got the teen's clothes off, put him onto a clean sheet and wrapped him in a back brace and a neck collar. Soon, a two-



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Chantay Jett, left, stands with her son, Keelan McBurney, at their home in Joseph in from of the buggy she said will be a project for her son to work on with his grandfather. McBurney, a cross-country runner, suffered a severe injury to his left leg in May, but he is on the road to recovery.

person ambulance crew arrived from the hospital.

"Since there were a lot of us, we decided we could lift him into the ambulance because the driveway's really steep and a gurney would have been difficult," Jett said. "But we didn't even go to Wallowa Memorial Hospital, we just went right to the Joseph airfield and jumped on a LifeFlight to Walla Walla."

At the hospitals

There they gave McBurney a full-body MRI and did a vascular assessment. The hospital staff determined the damage was limited to the left leg, but because of the vascular damage, decided he needed to go to Sacred Heart Med ical Center in Spokane.

"Because of Walla Walla's fantastic assessment, they were able to assemble three surgical teams in Spokane, who were waiting for us, and they took Keelan

back for the first round of surgeries that was about seven hours," Jett said.

The worst of his scars is the result of one of the operations where surgeons did a fasciotomy, a surgical procedure where the band of tissue beneath the skin is cut to relieve tension or pressure commonly to treat the resulting loss of circulation to an area of tissue or muscle.

The procedure allayed the McBurney family's worries about their son possibly losing a leg.

Coming home

After nearly three weeks in the Spokane hospital, the McBurneys brought their son home June 3 to a community that welcomed them with open arms.

Jett said Lisa Collier organized "a parade, if you will," with a police escort from the Lewiston Highway all the way to their home in Joseph. People were

tive, then you have COVID,

but if it's negative you don't

have the results for the two

By state law, labs are

required to notify the state

from the saliva tests will be

of any testing results and

positive cases resulting

treated the same as other

lab results, said Morgan

County Health Services

"By expanding our

testing capacity, it will cast

a wider net, identify more

paths the virus can use to

spread especially in coun-

ties experiencing large out-

breaks," Allen said. "These

but they have strengths and

But they can result in

false negatives even among

Allen said. A negative test

those with symptoms,

cases and cut off more

tests are fast. They are

limitations. '

accurate positive results,

Emerson, Deschutes

spokeswoman.

viral targets it tests for."

cheering and waving along the route.

She said at Eggleson Corner, a number of people were waving signs and emergency vehicles including the Joseph Fire Department — added to the escort.

Stepping forward

Given the timing of the accident — schools were closed for the COVID-19 pandemic — McBurney missed only a month of school. Now a sophomore, he said he made up missed work in about a week and

"All the teachers said I did fantastic on all the work that I had to make up," he said.

McBurney continues physical therapy - mostly various workouts and stretches — as well as regaining his activity.

He also returned to some of the outdoor activities he loves. While he hasn't been able to water ski or wakeboard this year, there's been no shortage of swimming, fishing and less-taxing activities.

But despite the trauma Jett has encouraged him to become active again, insisting he drive since he obtained his learner's permit and to do physical activities he feels up to and safe doing.

"I think at times I actually push him to do the things I know he can," she said. "He's been a bit tenuous about approaching things — he gets scared."

McBurney agrees Mom has been an encourager.

'She's let me be very independent," he said.

is not a free pass and means

people can stop taking pre-

The state's additional

testing capacity also means

ated, Brown said. That will

occur over the next couple

of weeks as health officials and school administrations

talk to parents, teachers and

Test kits will be sent to

health centers to test stu-

dents and staff who have

tact with someone who has

symptoms at kindergarten

lege campuses, Allen said.

The Oregon Health

Authority will distribute these tests to local public

health authorities, Emerson

said, which then will send

them to rural hospitals,

rural health centers and

centers.

federally qualified health

through grade 12 and at col-

symptoms or have con-

cautions, he said.

staff.

the metrics to reopen

schools can be reevalu-

TRIAL

Continued from Page 1A

Lee was hospitalized after suffering a stroke in January 2020 while in custody at the Union County Correctional Facility, La Grande.

He then underwent a mental evaluation.

The court canceled the murder trial after Dr. Michael Saul Farris, a Portland-based psychiatrist, determined Lee was danger to himself or others because of a mental disorder and he requires hospital care due to the dangerousness and the acuity of symptoms of the disorder, according to the judge's order. The court received Farris' report

Lee's attorney Dean Gushwa, of Pendleton, filed to postpone the trial in January, which Judge Powers granted with no objections from District Attorney Kelsie McDaniel.

"Due to two strokes while in custody at the jail, Mr. Lee has been found to be unable to aid and assist in his defense," Gushwa said. "The court has ordered that he be transported to the Oregon State Hospital to receive

'restorative services.""

Lee remains in custody at the county jail. The Union County Sheriff's Office will transfer Lee to the Oregon State Hospital.

According to the court order, after a 60-day evaluation, the state will determine if Lee can stand trial in the future. The state also will submit progress reports every 180 days through the length of Lee's commitment, which will be no more than three years.

Conspiracy to commit murder in Oregon carries a minimum sentence of seven-and-half years, and conviction for murder carries a minimum sentence of 25 years.

The court in May stayed the proceedings in the case against Lee's co-defendant, Steve Edward Hamilton, 66, of La Grande, pending the outcome of Lee's case. Hamilton also faces charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Hamilton in March pleaded guilty to two counts of hindering prosecution for providing Lee with transportation and concealing physical evidence. He remains in the

county jail.



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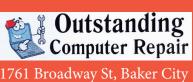




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TESTING

Continued from Page 1A

"But colder, rainy weather is coming and Oregonians will be spending more time indoors where COVID spreads more easily. If we're sick of COVID-19 now, it's only going to get harder."

Since Aug. 31, the number of COVID-19 cases has risen 25%, caused largely by social gatherings, said Patrick Allen, Oregon Health Authority director. It marks the end of a fiveweek downward trend.

As of Wednesday, there were 35,634 confirmed and presumptive cases and 583 deaths, according to the OHA website.

The rapid Abbott BinaxNOW antigen testing kits are being deployed nationwide. In Oregon, once the communities affected by wildfire get the test kits, it then will go to test migrant and agricultural workers, communities of color, tribal communities and senior citizens. Eventually, communities will have a supply to use in contact tracing efforts.

The goal with testing is the more tested, the more the spread can be contained, Brown said. The new supply of tests allows the state to revise its testing guidelines and now test even those who don't show any symptoms but have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for the virus.

Meanwhile, Safeway/ Albertsons stores with pharmacies in Oregon and southern Washington now offer at-home COVID-19 test kits using saliva. The kits, which cost \$139.99 each can be picked up at a store or delivered by mail. Results are available within 72 hours by email or text, said Stephen Certo, Safeway/Albertsons director of pharmacy operations.

At the moment, insurance does not cover these tests, Certo said. And there are no restrictions on the

number of kits requested. "We have plenty of supply," Certo said. "It's 98% accurate. If it is posi-

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