



Gerald Hopkins, president of the Elgin Historical Society, pauses for a moment under a lantern Saturday, May, 1, 2021, within the former Elgin Jail at the Elgin Museum.



Spectators along the track hold balloons, ready to release them at kickoff at the Elgin High School football field Monday, March 29, 2021. Four teams gathered to play in an exhibition match against the Elgin Huskies in remembrance of the late football coach and athletic director Jeff Rysdam, who died March 9.

NEWS PHOTOS OF 2021

Photos by Alex Wittwer



Cowpokes fill up the chutes and prepare for the mutton busting event at the Elgin Stampede's Family Fun Night on Wednesday, July 7, 2021.



Grande Ronde Rappeller Tulley Bloom, left, checks over Micah Olivera's gear prior to a firefighting operation northwest of Mount Emily in La Grande on Wednesday, July 21, 2021. A wave of wildfires in Oregon burned through more than 800,000 acres and more than 150 homes in 2021.



Firefighters with the La Grande Fire Department respond to a structure fire at the Oregon Department of Transportation sign shop the morning of Monday, March 29, 2021. There were no reported injuries.



La Grande High School student Moss Morris works on a mug during an art class led by Rich McIlmoil on Thursday, May 27, 2021. While there is some concern, most local educators say the pandemic hasn't had a major impact on the education of their schools' students.



Alex Boyé sings at the Union County Fairgrounds, La Grande, on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021. Nearly 200 attendees made their way to the fairgrounds for the internationally known musician in support of suicide prevention and awareness.



Bull riders wait for their turn on Thursday, June 10, 2021, in the pens behind the arena at the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show in Union.



A young girl seeks shelter from the sun underneath the bleachers during open sheep judging at the Union County Fair on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021.



Mastyn Allen, 9, looks up with a face full of cherries at the pie-eating contest during Cove's Cherry Fair on Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021.



Brittany and Ethan Bengé pose for a photo atop their converted Thomas FS-65 school bus on Friday, July 30, 2021. The couple left Dunedin, Florida, in March 2020 after the beginning of the pandemic and have traveled across the United States for the past 18 months — including an elopement in the mountains of Colorado.



A thin plastic sheet separates the intensive care unit from the COVID-19 ward at Grande Ronde Hospital on Monday, Aug. 30, 2021. The rate of infection in Eastern Oregon remained steady into the fall, and individual hospitals were left with the task of implementing their own crisis care standards.



Kachira Phillips tearfully receives her crown and becomes the 2021 Eastern Oregon Livestock Show Queen on Tuesday, June 8, 2021. The Eastern Oregon Livestock Show returned after a year hiatus due to the pandemic and drew competitors from across the nation.



Immature wheat grass grows along Lyons Ferry Road on Sunday, May 30, 2021.