



The main building at Dayville School.



Prairie City School.



Monument School.



Grant Union High School.

Eagle file photos

Schools

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days and Tuesday and Thursday being B days,” Uptmor said. “One day they will take four classes and the next day they will take four different classes, and that would alternate back and forth throughout the week.”

The purpose behind this schedule is to reduce the amount of transitions that students have for classes.

“Because the amount of active cases in Grant County is 0, we would start our day regular start time and end regular end time,” Uptmor said before

a second case was announced Monday.

Uptmor said they have received comments from parents asking if it would be possible for their kids to be educated from home, and he said yes. Administrators are looking at options. Uptmor said he submitted a plan to the Grant County Health Department, which suggested changes, and he will post an updated plan to the school website when completed.

For Prairie City, Superintendent Casey Hallgarth said they also plan to have in-person teaching, but will have an alternative option for students who do not want to attend school in person.

“When we reopen, we are going to be an on-site school, but our goal is to bring back as many normalcy and routines as we can and do it in the safest manner,” Hallgarth said. “We’re hiring extra staff to clean, and our goal is to work with the community.”

A more finalized plan will be ready on Aug. 4, as soon as it is approved by the school board. Details will then be posted on pcsd4.com.

Hallgarth anticipates having seven periods a day for high school and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for elementary school.

In Monument, Superintendent Laura Thomas said they are lucky enough to have large classrooms that provide them

with the ability to plan for all students to return for in-person instruction in the fall while making plans for comprehensive distance learning if there are any families who are unable to return for in-person instruction.

“While the school year will not look the same as the past, desks will be spaced 6 feet apart, less physical contact, and lots and lots of handwashing, to name a few; the hustle and bustle of the students will fill our buildings once again and students will have the ability to be in the same room as their teacher to receive instruction, and that is a great thing,” Thomas said.

They are also in the process

of finalizing their plan, and there have been many hours of reading guidance, attending webinars and meeting with staff to plan for the upcoming school year.

Thomas added that plans have to be submitted for approval to the Grant County Health Department, shared with the school board and submitted to Oregon Department of Education no later than Aug. 15, but they plan to have it finalized in the next couple of weeks.

Dayville Superintendent Kathryn Hedrick said they plan to open on-site but need to be ready to spring into distance learning in case of a rise in cases.

While Dayville will have

more details closer to the start of the new school year, Hedrick would like parents to communicate their concerns and ideas for the next school year.

She added that she began telephone conversations with parents last week and is working through the list. Families can call her if they have not been contacted by her.

Each administrator stated, if a parent has a concern, comment or question, they should call the school administrators and let them know.

“We are working to make sure each kid will be safe,” Uptmor said.

The Eagle has reached out to Long Creek School District but has not heard back.



Contributed photo/Grant County Assessor's Office
Tim Jewell's property near Kimberly after a fire devastated his home July 1.

Fire

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and the help he received after the incident.

“Dennis and Linda (Abraham) took me up to their house, insisted that I stay in their nice camp trailer and Linda fed me good food,” Jewell said. “The whole thing has been overwhelming.”

While Jewell was saved and from the fire, all of his possessions were lost except the shoes and clothes on his back.

“The history that I had... my God, I had diaries of the Oregon Trail that were in my family, photos from way back and I had an uncle that was with Napoleon written up and and now they’re all gone,” Jewell said. “I can’t replace it. Your life is gone when that happens.”

Despite what was lost in the fire, Jewell has been taken aback by the abundance of support provided by the community members around him.

He said, while Osbourne and Abraham saved his life, it’s hard for him not to thank and acknowledge everybody who helped out and continues to help.

Jewell also said he was glad for the quick response from neighbors, ODF and Monument Fire.

Ed Falls, a neighbor, said thanks to the quick action, the neighboring ranches were saved, preventing a devastating wildfire.



Britnee Kellogg was the opening act for the Grant County Fair concert last year.

Eagle file photo

Funding

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However, lawmakers stalled and did not take any legislative action on the proposal by walking out to kill a proposed climate change bill.

Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, said Friday that he has not seen the final draft of the Ways and Means Subcommittee budget, but he did hear about the proposed cut.

“I’ve heard the million dollar number for the county fairs more than once,” he said. “I’ve not seen it in writing yet.”

He said \$50 million was allocated to venues, including county fairgrounds, earlier this week in an emergency board meeting to offset losses and operational costs.

Findley said fairs cannot



Sen. Lynn Findley



Reitta Wyllie, who was the 2015 Grant County Fair and Rodeo Queen, rides in last year’s parade down Main Street in John Day.

Eagle file photo

replace a budget shortfalls, but if they spent money for a COVID-19-related cost, they can apply for reimbursement of that cost.

Findley said the state has to balance the budget amid the economic downturn

during the pandemic, and that there are tough times ahead.

“We’ve got to find \$3 billion,” he said.

He said he hopes the state makes budget decisions “strategically and carefully” without raising taxes.

“We have to maintain the economic development component, and we have to keep businesses operational and viable,” Findley said.

He said it would be “devastating” for the state should county fairs not be able to

return in 2021.

“It’s an incredible community event,” he said. “Whether you’re in Eugene and Linn County, or in Grant County, it brings family families together. It’s a gathering point in rural counties.”

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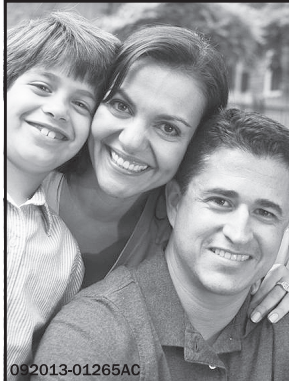
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appointment only as well.

The modified livestock shows, closed to the pub-



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