

# School

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those kinds of criteria.” Uptmor said parents also have that option of comprehensive distance learning. “Your only option isn’t on-site. You can come talk to us about our two online options,” Uptmor said. The online options are through Edgenuity, a stand alone program at home, or Baker Web Academy, a virtual school program in partnership with Baker School District. Online Programs will start on Aug. 31, while on-site teaching will start on Sept. 8 to accommodate for the updates in the recent guidelines from the state. At Prairie City High School,



Laura Thomas

Superintendent Casey Hallgarth said school will be in session on-site and online on Aug. 31. He said the Prairie City School District will be purchasing all the school supplies for students for the upcoming school year. “These are tough times, and we don’t want our parents to worry because school supplies can cost quite a bit,” Hallgarth said. “Our biggest concern is the students coming back, and they don’t need to worry about having a notebook, pencil, paper. We want parents to have a sense of relief.” Prairie City will have two

cohorts in the grade school, which will be kindergarten through second grade and third grade through sixth grade. The next cohort will be seventh and eighth grade, and the last will be ninth through 12th grade. He said another big difference will be social distancing and making sure kids have masks on. “There’s going to be some differences, but the good thing is the kids get to come back to school and see their friends ... and get a proper education,” Hallgarth said. Prairie City is pairing with Pearson Online and Blended Learning Program to provide their online courses. Dayville Superintendent Kathryn Hedrick said, because of Dayville’s small enrollment

of less than 75 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, they are allowed to open for on-site instruction Sept. 8. Hedrick said the school district is mindful that some families are reluctant to send their students because of the face covering mandate or possible exposure, but those families can work with the district for an alternative education program that works for them and fulfills ODE guidelines. “Part of the willingness for us to run two platforms, in-school and distance learning, (is) if we did experience an outbreak we would have to pivot to distance learning on a moment’s notice,” Hedrick said. Hedrick said Dayville will have all the appropriate prevention measures needed, such as

face coverings, hand washing stations, cohorts, protocols for screening and appropriate protocols for response. Long Creek plans to provide an online option for students and will announce final plans Aug. 19. School begins Aug. 24. Monument Superintendent Laura Thomas said they will have on-site and online options for school, which starts Aug. 24. “While this school year will look like one we have never seen, it will be great,” Thomas said. “Students and staff are able to be on-site for instruction, and that is something to be excited about.” If an outbreak does occur during the school year, educators in Grant County are training with the online programs

their school district uses to make the transition smoother than when distance learning first occurred in March. “This has been a very trying time for our community, and the things we are starting our schools out with are going to be successful,” Uptmor said about his district. “Things that are traditionally there are going to be disappointing ... but we hope that at some time we can find a way to reconnect families to our school in a more personal manner.” Hallgarth said he hopes parents can be understanding because it will take time to get used to these adjustments. He said the school district is doing its best to be in compliance with state rules.



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

Rodeo court members prepare for the parade at Grant Union High school.

# Parade

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“I was so excited when we got to come because we didn’t have any parade on our schedule, and when we found out about this we said, ‘We have to go,’” Grove said. “We got to go all out, and the horses looked great.” Grove and the two other girls who rode with her, princess Kadence Parsons, 16, and princess Brook Parsons, 13, said they were pleased with how the event turned out and were appreciative of the kindness shown from the people in the community. Aaliyah Marciel, 13, and Shayna Marciel, 12, who also participated in the parade



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

Members of the Chester’s Thriftway float toss out Frisbees to spectators.

on horseback, were happy to be a part of the event to show people that, even with a pandemic, a parade can still happen and people can have fun. “My favorite part was going around town and show-

ing people that Grant County is so great,” Aaliyah Marciel said. “Even with the pandemic going on and it affecting the fair, it’s nice that we can still have a parade and have fun.”

# Rule

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King Williams, a consultant with Iron Triangle Logging, said forest managers should use the best available science when working toward the goal of maintaining old and large trees that have visual characteristics that suggest an age of 150 years. He said the

Malheur National Forest has been doing so through project-specific forest plan amendments. “I would support changing from a standard to a guideline,” he said, but added the proposal in his opinion appears to be “ambiguous” and could be contentious. He said a big problem in the past has been a lack of trust in forest managers. He said the Blue Mountains For-

est Partners forest collaborative — comprised of loggers, environmentalists and Forest Service personnel — has been working to build that trust. “I think they need to be more bold,” he said. Grant County Commissioner Sam Palmer said many of the trees that loggers are prohibited from cutting are diseased, and he supports the proposal.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Ellie Justice bumps fists with FFA adviser and ag shop teacher Wayne Suchorski Saturday at the Youth Livestock Auction. Justice won the Delly Officer Memorial Award for courtesy and sportsmanship.

# Fair

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every year. “It was always the highlight of the year for me,” she said. She said the social setting, with kids in 4-H and FFA showing their livestock and static projects and the support from the community, make the fair and those involved in its planning each year a second family for many. Montague, who has two kids, 4 and 5 years old, said after moving to Grant County a little over two years ago, she started attending fair board meetings and “threw her name in the hat” when a seat on the board opened up. Montague, who kept track of the number of people coming in to make sure the outdoor arena did not exceed Gov. Kate Brown’s cap of 250 people at large outdoor venues, said people were grateful the county had something for the community. Throughout fair week, fair organizers were able to host a series of safe and socially distanced events for 4-H and FFA youth, which culminated Saturday with the Grant County Youth Livestock Auction.

**“IT’S REALLY IMPORTANT FOR US TO MAKE SURE THE KIDS HAD AN OUTLET FOR THESE ANIMALS THAT THEY’VE WORKED WITH AND SPENT SO MUCH MONEY ON THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.”**

—Shannon Springer, Grant County Auction Committee treasurer




The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Carson McKay of Prairie City calls out a bid Saturday at the Youth Livestock Auction at the Grant County Fair.

The socially distanced event kicked off with a trip dinner and, because alcohol was served, was closed to youth. Grant County Auction Committee Treasurer Shannon Springer said buyers participated both virtually and in person. “A lot of new stuff came

up that we are not accustomed to dealing with,” she said. However, she said, the auction raised more money than it did in previous years. While Springer said she did not know the exact amount, she said the auction took in more than it sold. “We raised a lot of money,” she said. “I mean we brought in a lot of money for the kids.” She said the auction netted upwards of \$300,000, surpassing last year’s amount by roughly \$25,000. It is a given, she said, that the county shows up to support 4H and FFA youth. “This community is always phenomenally gener-



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