



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

Oregon Connections Academy Principal Miranda Pickner, left, and Prairie City Superintendent Casey Hallgath stand in front of the Prairie City School gym Feb. 22.

Oregon Connections Academy now sponsored by Prairie City School

Virtual school has a physical office in Grant County

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

Oregon Connections Academy, a public online virtual school, is opening an office inside the Prairie City School building as part of a new partnership.

The virtual school's charter is now sponsored by the Prairie City School District, according to a press release from the academy, which is currently enrolling students in grades K-12 for the upcoming 2021-22 school year with registration available for any family across the state.

The academy began serving students in grades K-5 for the second semester of the 2020-21 school year.

"Our partnership with

Oregon Connections Academy will provide students all over the state the opportunity to learn," Prairie City Superintendent Casey Hallgath said in the release. "The ability to offer another form of education to students is so critical. Not all students fit in the brick and mortar as well as not all students fit the online schooling."

Hallgath said he looks forward to the partnership to provide students with a chance to learn their way, online or in person.

Miranda Pickner will be the principal for Oregon Connections Academy, and she said online school has been a popular option for Oregonians, even before the pandemic.

"We know that families will remain interested in a safe, supportive online learning environment that provides personal attention from teachers, even when the pub-

lic health crisis is over," Pickner said.

Academy teachers are trained to teach in a virtual classroom and emphasize creating connections with students and their families. Parents or guardians also serve as "Learning Coaches," helping teachers by providing the structure students need through setting daily routines, ensuring attendance and ensuring student work is complete.

"We are proud to work together with our district partner and sponsor, Prairie City School District, to bring Oregon families another quality virtual school solution," said Oregon Connections Academy School Board Chair Kevin McAdams.

For more information about Oregon Connections Academy or enrollment, call 800-382-6010 or visit oregonconnectionsacademy.com.

Many school district seats up for election

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

Many school board seats will be on the May ballot in Grant County.

People interested in a seat must file by 5 p.m. March 18, and the filing packets can be obtained at the Grant County Clerk's office or at oregonvotes.org. The election for the seats listed is scheduled for May 18.

Education Service District

Three seats are available in the Grant County ESD this year.

There is one at-large position available with a four-year term. Zone 3 and Zone 5 are also available for four-year terms.

School districts

All five school districts have open seats for their school boards.

At Grant School District 3, one at-large position with a two-year unexpired term is up for grabs. Seats in zones one, two and four are available with a four-year term. A spot in zone three is also open with a two-year unexpired term.

At Prairie City School District 4, seats in zones one, two, three and six are available with a four-year term. A spot in zone four is also open with a two-year unexpired term.

At Monument School District 8, seats in zones two, five and six are available with a four-year term. A spot in zone



Eagle file photo

An official Grant County ballot drop box behind the courthouse.

three is also open with a two-year unexpired term.

At Dayville School District 16J, seats in zones one, two and three are available with a four-year term.

At Long Creek School District 17, seats in zones one and three are available with a four-year term.

Other Grant County positions

The Grant County Transportation District has three at-large positions available for four-year terms.

The John Day Rural Fire District has two at-large positions available for four-year terms with one at-large position available for a two-year unexpired term.

The Mt. Vernon Rural Fire District has three at-large positions available for four-year terms.

The Prairie Rural Fire District has two at-large positions available for four-year terms.

The John Day-Canyon City Parks and Recreation

District has three at-large positions available with no term length listed.

The Blue Mountain Hospital District has one at-large position available for a four-year term. Spots in positions one and two are also up for grabs for four-year terms.

Dayville Cemetery District has two at-large positions available for a four-year term.

Fox Cemetery District has one at-large position available for a four-year term.

Long Creek Cemetery District has two at-large positions available for a four-year term.

Mid-County Cemetery District has two at-large positions available for a four-year term.

Monument Cemetery District has one at-large positions available for a four-year term. An additional at-large spot is available for a two-year unexpired term.

Prairie Cemetery District has one at-large position available for a four-year term.

Prairie City School honor roll — second nine weeks

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Jesaka Culley, Jojari Field, Brandon Horrell, Caitlin Willet and Declan Zwegardt.

Honor roll (3.5-3.99 GPA): Katie Hire, Sophia McLennan, Samantha Workman, Ezra Beam and Kevin Duvall.

Honorable mention (3.0-3.49 GPA): Abbey Pfefferkorn and Jayden Winegar.

Juniors

Honor roll: Marcus Judd and Hannah Wall.

Honorable mention: Gavin Lopez, Masyn Keith, Zenteyvia Locke, Tianna Lawrence, John Titus and Cameron Zirkel.

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Kaitlynne Ashley and Laken McKay.

Honor roll: Paige Shaw.
Honorable mention: Caitlin Titus and Cole Teel.

Freshmen

Honor roll: Cayden Howard and Jasmine Hayzlett.

Honorable mention: Jaycee Winegar, Cody Reagan, Brooke Teel, Tristen Gibson and Wes Voigt.

Eighth-graders

4.0 GPA: Josie Horrell, Reece Jacobs and Eric Rausch.

Honor roll: Tamara Judd, Lilly Rockhill and Clyde Holliday.

Honorable mention: Eli Hinkle, Gracie Voigt, Syrus Workman, Skylar McKay and Zoey Beam.

Seventh-graders

Honor roll: Alexis Anderton, Kaitlyn Dehart and Riley Davis.

Honorable mention: Colby Anderton, Mya Bryant, Keira Teel, Laynie Harmon and Maison Teel.

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