

# The Blue Mountain EAGLE



Grant County's newspaper since 1868



Wednesday, August 18, 2021

153rd Year • No. 33 • 14 Pages • \$1.50

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# SOLED!



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell  
**MadiLyne Cearns, 11, of Prairie City poses with her sheep. Cearns earned a blue ribbon.**



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell  
**Tate Waddel, front, and Simmie Waddel with his market steer.**



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell  
**Buyers Nick and Amy Stiner pose at the Youth Livestock Auction.**



**Samantha Adams-Choate, 18, of Monument won the Grand Champion in Showmanship.**

Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell  
**Jonathan Leighty, 12, of Prairie City poses with his sheep.**



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell  
**Scott Officer, left, presents Parker Manitsas with the 'Delley Officer Award.'**



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell  
**From left, Scott Officer, Parker Manitsas, Emma Lynne Northway and Treyton Brown.**

## Youth Livestock Auction raises more than \$500,000

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Fair Youth Livestock Auction netted upwards of \$500,000, more than \$200,000 over last year. Shannon Springer, Grant County Auction Committee treasurer, said while she does not know if this year's number broke a record, she said this was the most money the auction has brought in since she has been on the committee. Scott Officer, who awards a stu-

dent in 4-H or FFA with the Delley Officer Memorial for courtesy and sportsmanship, presented the award to Parker Manitsas. Officer said Manitsas was nominated three times for the honor. Officer said a three-person panel interviews each nominee. Typically, he said it is a four-person panel, but this year it was three. The winner is usually presented with a pocket knife and a trophy with a hunter safety message, but he could not order it this year. So Manitsas was presented with the award. Officer said the award is in memory

of his "brother and best friend" Delly, who was accidentally shot by a hunter in 1984. Springer shared a summary of the number of animals sold and the total dollar amount the auction brought in.

2016:	106 animals, \$170,010.30
2017:	122, \$198,895.56
2018:	115, \$220,204.40
2019:	118, \$277,564.50
2020:	114, \$302,623.50
2021:	126, \$505,545.00

See Auction Page A14



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell  
**Old West Federal Credit Union's float trots along Saturday during the Grant County Fair parade.**

## A roaring-good parade

Grant County Fair parade rolls through John Day

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

It was a "rip-roaring good time" Saturday as horses, kids and many others made their way through downtown John Day for

the Grant County Fair parade. The parade left from Grant Union High School at 11 a.m. and made its way down Canyon Boulevard to Main Street, and ended at Chester's Thriftway, Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley led the convoy with the stars and stripes flapping in the wind on the right side of his rig with his lights flashing. Grant County Fair grand mar-

shal Bonnie Nance soon followed in a cattle truck driven by the fair board. Various businesses, organizations and groups participated in the parade. A few floats and participants protested Gov. Kate Brown's recent pandemic restrictions, holding up signs reading "Freedom not Force," "Media is the virus" and other anti-masking messages.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell  
**Dirt bike riders of all age roll through the parade Saturday.**

## DELTA BLUES

School officials, teachers and parents call on county to fight for local control

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County parents and school district officials continued to push back against Gov. Kate Brown's mask mandate for students and staff in schools during the Aug. 11 session of Grant County Court. Based on Centers for Disease Control recommendations, the governor's mandate responded to the highly contagious delta variant of coronavirus. Like many district leaders across Oregon, Prairie City School District Superintendent Casey Hallgarth was frustrated and puzzled about why the state stripped the district of local control seemingly out of nowhere. "Why are we starting back at Ground Zero?" Hallgarth said. "Why is it a top-down decision?"



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell  
**Casey Hallgarth, Prairie City School District Superintendent, at Grant County Court Aug. 11.**

Hallgarth said last year he and the district would base their decisions on the data and said they have a good relationship with the county's health department. Hallgarth said Prairie City School District never had a large outbreak last

year and leaned on the health department for guidance. He said the district is frustrated and supports those who choose to wear a face covering and supports those who do not want to wear one. And, Hallgarth noted, he made that "perfectly clear." "It should be a choice, though," he said. "And that's where we stand at the school."

### Concerned parents

Ryan Courtney told the court that he and his wife have been homeschooling their two kids and had intended on sending them to in-person classes in the fall, but now, after Brown's announcement face coverings would be mandated, he and many parents that could not be at county court are having second thoughts

unless they see pushback against the "continued madness" from the state. Courtney said he hoped to gain the court's support in getting local control decision-making back to the districts and out of the hands of the state. "We have smart administrators who have been working tirelessly with their staff, school boards, and parents to create an atmosphere where kids want to learn and want to come to school, but still provide for COVID safety," Courtney said. Hamsher told Courtney that the Eastern Oregon Counties Association, which represents more than 10 counties, would be sending a letter that Grant County signed to ask for local control of school districts. County Judge Scott Myers told

See Masks, Page A14

