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50 Shades of ORANGE

Variable data and priorities fuel inconsistent risk management levels

Trustees: Open in Category 3 on August 31

Emmett Independent School District

Movement between Categories will be determined in every week and reviewed with Trustees regularly.

CATEGORY 1: Low to No Community Spread Traditional School	CATEGORY 2: Minimal Community Spread School Buildings Open with Guidance	CATEGORY 3: Moderate Spread Distance Learning and Face to Face Instruction; <u>Masks mandated masks when social distancing is not possible for more than 15 minutes</u>	CATEGORY 4: Substantial Spread School Closures and Distance Learning
Traditional School	Face-to-Face Instruction, Physical Distancing, Protocols, Prevention	Hybrid School with buildings open with Face-to-Face Instruction and Distance Learning	Distance Learning Targeted Closures

By **DEL GRAY**
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The Emmett School District is opening school next week in Orange. New Plymouth School District says they will open in Green. The State of Idaho says we are to remain in Stage 4 of its Rebound plan, though Ada County is back in Stage 3. The Southwest District Health Department indicates most of the six counties in its jurisdiction are classified as Red – regardless of what the hard numbers say.

The result is a confusion that has

many citizens seeing Red, regardless of what agency has the community classified as or where.

Why all the color confusion or blindness?

According to local health officials, medical practitioners, school officials and governmental authorities the bulk of the confusion is rooted in the objectives each of the responsible parties have prioritized. And the underlying basis for the confusion is the very nature of the coronavirus COVID-19 and its still not yet fully

understood behavior.

DIFFERENT DATA MATRIX

There are three primary sources of determining where the State of Idaho and the local community stands in the efforts to control the spread of the virus.

The State of Idaho has its Rebound Idaho Plan. This is a four-staged return to a “normal” fifth stage. It has been the methodology used by Governor Little and his administration to determine how aggressively a community can bounce back from the “Stay at

Home” orders issued in March. The return to work began in late April and progressed nicely in two-week increments until it has stalled out in Stage Four. There are no colors attributed to the stages in Governor Little’s planning.

The Southwest District Health Department has created a four-color Health Alert Level chart that is intended to indicate where each of the six counties within its District stand regarding continuing spread of the virus. On the surface it appears as a numerical based measure.

More **SCHOOLS** | A8

ABOVE: The Emmett School District has chosen to open in the Orange Zone. Just where on the zone will be determined week to week as efforts are made to return to school in the most traditional ways possible and yet make room to allow students to work remotely if preferred.

Teen motivates action for Emmett Cleanup

By **DEL GRAY**
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Andrew Tudor got tired of reading online complaints about how trashy some areas of Emmett were – particularly roadsides and other semi-public spaces.

“It seemed that everyone had a beef but no one was

doing anything about it” Tudor said.

That is until the 13-year old Emmett middle schooler decided he would act. He created an online Facebook event earlier this summer that caught the attention of a handful of local women. They joined him in a cleanup effort that made a dent. But not one good enough for Tudor.

“Once we started picking up trash we discovered there was a whole lot more out there than we first realized,” Tudor said. “We couldn’t just stop there.”

Saturday, Sept. 13, Tudor and a now-expanded volunteer base is determined to make a bigger impact.

“Clean Up Emmett Day” will be declared for the sec-

ond Saturday in September at the Emmett City Council meeting on Aug. 25 by Mayor Gordon Petrie. It is just another step in a process that Tudor has been working on all summer to motivate and engage the broader Emmett community.

“There are about 6,000 residents in Emmett,” Tudor said. “We want to see at least ten percent of us joining in with the effort on Clean Up Day.”

Tudor has contacted a variety of local organizations to get on the clean-up truck. Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis have all said yes. The Chamber of Commerce is on board.

More **CLEANUP** | A2

Andrew Tudor and his original team of cleanup volunteers.



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