

Cost of Union school lunches to rise slightly

By Dick Mason
The Observer

Union School District students will be paying a dime more for lunches in the upcoming school year.

The school board voted Wednesday to raise the cost of its lunches by 10 cents. The increase takes effect when classes begin Aug. 27. The new lunch prices will be \$2.35 for students in kindergarten through sixth grade and \$2.60 for students in grades 7-12.

The cost of breakfast will remain \$1 for students in all grades, said Union School District Superintendent Carter Wells.

The lunch price increase was needed to allow the Union School District to continue to align with standards of the federal government's National School Lunch Program. School lunch prices must be maintained at a certain level for a school district to remain eligible for the federal government's free and reduced lunch program, Wells said. Through this program a school district provides free and reduced cost lunches to eligible students from lower income families and are reimbursed fully for them.

Items also discussed at the meet-

ing included the school district's enrollment outlook, which Wells said appears promising based on student registration and other factors.

"We are predicting that enrollment should be up, but we will not know for sure until we see students in the buildings," he said.

The superintendent said if the number of students enrolled this fall is up from last year, it will be the third year in a row the district has had an increase.

Last September, Union's enrollment was up about 30 students from the fall of 2016.

Enrollment is a critical piece of a school district's funding since districts receive at least \$6,000 from the state per student each school year.

Wells said the school district has had to make a number of changes and adaptations as its enrollment has risen, but he is not complaining.

"It is a good problem to have," he said.

Building upgrades and renovations completed over the summer were also discussed at Wednesday's meeting. The work done includes the addition of new fixtures

and paint to the girls locker room in the school district's gym building and an elementary school restroom and the painting of two restrooms in the high school.

Much of this work was funded by a donation from a local family. "Union is a wonderful community, and this is another example," Wells said.

The district's maintenance staff has also been busy refinishing the bleachers in the gym and the schools' floors this summer.

"I can't say enough about all the great work our staff has done this summer," Wells said.

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

Flora School work party and annual meeting is tomorrow

FLORA—A work party at the Flora School is planned for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 18. Volunteers should wear work clothes in layers to accommodate the changing temperatures throughout the day. All ages and skill levels are welcome. At 2 p.m., a late-lunch potluck will be held along with the annual meeting to discuss the summer's School Days. Everybody is welcome to stay, enjoy the potluck and participate in the meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting but have

suggestions for how to improve School Days, email Vanessa at florascshool@tds.net.

WC Commissioners hold public meeting on forest plan revision

ENTERPRISE—The Wallowa County Board of Commissioners will be conducting a public meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. 21 at Cloverleaf Hall to discuss the current Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision and to hear comments from Wallowa County citizens. Those interested in attending are encouraged to do so. For questions, contact the commis-

sioners' office at 541-426-4543, ext. 130.

Union County Museum cancels 'Third Tuesday' event

UNION—The Union County Museum canceled this month's Third Tuesday event due to the continuing hot weather and lack of air conditioning in the Little White Church, where the event takes place.

The next Third Tuesday will be held Sept. 18 with the guest speaker to be announced. Alice Trindle, a musician, storyteller and historian from Haines

who was scheduled to perform next week, will instead give her lively Oregon Trail 175th Anniversary presentation at the Union County Museum's annual meeting scheduled for Oct. 5. The annual meeting is free and open to the public.

LG Swim Club holds annual meeting

LA GRANDE—The La Grande Swim Club will hold its annual general meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. 21 at the Pioneer Park Pavilion. For more information, contact the board president, Tatiana Ricker, at 541-963-5961.

Lightning causes fires in NE Oregon

Five small lightning-started fires were reported in Union, Wallowa and Umatilla counties Thursday and today according to the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center. All were quickly put out by U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry firefighting crews.

One fire was in Union County, seven miles northwest of Summerville. It was reported at 4 p.m. Thursday and involved a single tree.

Two fires were in Wallowa County. The first was north of Enterprise, reported at 5:45 p.m. Thursday. The second was northwest of Wallowa and was reported 6:17 a.m. this morning.

Two fires were in Umatilla County, both in the Ukiah area. The fires were reported between 6 and 7 p.m. Thursday.

— Dick Mason, The Observer



Firefighters respond to Blue Mountain Seeds

Observer Staff

A fire broke out at the Blue Mountain Seeds location Thursday afternoon around 2 p.m.

According to La Grande Rural Fire Chief Larry Wooldridge, the fire originated with a piece of machinery in one of the buildings on Highway 82 near Imbler. The fire then expanded and went into the actual wood part of the building itself, and down into the basement and where it began to burn up into the main structure.

Wooldridge said all the departments in the county sent resources to this fire, but the firefighters still struggled with not having enough manpower.

"Our main challenge was access to the fire because we couldn't get to it with ladders," Wooldridge told The Observer. "The city (La Grande) was having difficulty getting their ladder truck to the fire too."

That, plus the heat of the day and the lack of manpower made for some challenges.

Wooldridge estimated there were 20 to 24 firefighters who responded. He said the firefighters would be sent to get some water and rest periodically then would return as soon as they looked like they were ready to go back in.

"We did a tactical pause twice," Wooldridge said, explaining everyone got together once the fire wasn't free burning to hear the plan of action, drink some water and rest.

The firefighters eventually got the fire under control and started dispersing around 6:30 p.m., he said.

"(La Grande Fire Chief Les) Thomas was there and helped an immense amount," Wooldridge said. "The guys did great. It was a good example of where we had a limited amount of people and everyone stepped up."

OBITUARIES

Helen M. Edmondson

Formerly of La Grande

1929-2018

Helen Marie Edmondson, 89, formerly of La Grande, died Aug. 8, six days after her husband, Jack Edmondson, was laid to rest. A graveside service will be held at 12:30

p.m. Aug. 23 at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland. Arrangements are under the direction of Advantage Funeral & Cremation Services — Gateway of Portland.

Helen was born March 6, 1929, in La Grande, where she was raised. She was married to Jack Nichols Edmondson and had two children: Jan and Jon.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Jan

and Ken; son and daughter-in-law, Jon and Kristi; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Jack; father, Gerald; mother, La Von; sister, Jean; and brother, Howard.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Lung Association.

Condolences may be shared at www.advantagegateway.com.

Kenneth Lilly

La Grande

Kenneth Lilly, 97, of La Grande, died Aug. 15 at his home. An obituary is forthcoming. Arrangements are under the direction of Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Arrested: Tracer James Cathey, 20, La Grande, was arrested on a charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The La Grande Fire Department responded to eight calls for medical, an odor check and a burn complaint on Wednesday. Crews responded to eight calls for medical and a commercial fire at Blue Mountain Seeds on Thursday.

Public Safety

The Public Safety Report is compiled from police blotter information supplied by local law enforcement agencies and fire department reports. Individuals named as arrested and/or charged with crimes in this report are presumed innocent until proved guilty in a court of law.

R & C FAMILY STORE
Footwear for the Family
2700 Bearco Loop
La Grande
541-963-8898

SEX OFFENDER NOTIFICATION

NAME: Mark Timothy Carrington

Height: 6' 2"
Weight: 238lbs
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Hazel
Age: 32
Race: White
Sex: Male
Sid: 12625883

LOCATION: La Grande Area
VEHICLE: None

LEGAL STATUS:

1998: 16 Months Prison/44 Months Post-Prison Supervision - Sodomy II AT.
2000: 24 Months Formal Probation - Failure to Register.
2000: 36 Months Formal Probation - Public Indecency.
2001: 18 Months Bench Probation - Stalking.
2001: 19 Months Prison/41 Months Post-Prison Supervision - Public Indecency.
2004: 36 Months Formal Probation - Private Indecency.
2006: 8 Months Jail/24 Months Post-Prison Supervision - Failure to Register.
2007: 45 Months Prison/23 Months Post-Prison Supervision - Sex Abuse I NAT.
2010: 14 Months Prison/24 Months Post-Prison Supervision - Failure to Register.

CURRENT:

2012: 75 Months Prison/60 Months Post-Prison Supervision - Sex Abuse I.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: No contact with minors, No Frequenting Where Children are Likely to Congregate, Sex Offender Treatment, No Alcohol, Sex Offender Registration and Curfew.

TARGET VICTIMS: Females, non-discriminate on age.

METHOD OF OPERATION: Uses drugs and/or alcohol to befriend victims.

COMMENTS/ALERTS: Carrington has been deemed a predatory sex offender pursuant to ORS 181.585-587 by the Oregon Board of Parole.

REPORT ANY MISCONDUCT OR VIOLATION

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
1007 4th STREET, Ste. 2-C
LA GRANDE, OREGON 97850
(541) 963-1005



PACIFIC NORTHWEST
ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO, MONTANA
REACH 3 million Pacific Northwesterners with just One Call!

PNDC CLASSIFIED - Daily Newspapers
29 newspapers - 1,187,980 circulation
Number of words: 25 • Extra word cost: \$10
Cost: \$540 (Runs 3 consecutive days including wkds.)

PNDD 2x2 DISPLAY - Daily Newspapers
27 newspapers - 1,016,864 circulation
Size: 2x2 (3.25"x2") Cost: 1x 2x2: \$1,050

More info: Cecelia@cnpa.com or call (916) 288-6011

Storage Solution
www.CountrysideSheds.com

Countryside SHEDS
CCB #149931

"More Than Just a Shed"

Look at a Side-By-Side Comparison
Rent-To-Own Self-Storage

Ownership Option?..... Yes.....NO
Customization?..... Yes.....NO
Can I sell it when done?..... Yes.....NO
Moveable?..... Yes.....NO
Location?..... Your House... Across Town

See our display lot at
10102 S. McAlister Road Island City
(541) 663-0246 or toll free (800) 682-0589
Locally owned and operated for over 20 years