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SPORTS EOU finishes pool 2-1

Inside Budgets cuts at Buffalo Peak Golf Course, 2A New elk hunts, 1B

# Weekend

Good day to our valued subscriber Matt Burrows of La Grande

## License fees could increase

■ CHD has not raised fees for food service licenses since 2014

By Dick Mason  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Union County restaurant owners may pay more for food service licenses for the first time in five years.

The Center for Human Development has asked the Union County Board of Commissioners for a 15% boost to the annual fees it charges restaurant owners for food service licenses. The CHD's request also applies to the owners of public pools and spas and the owners of tourist facilities such as motels.

Under the proposed plan, the higher license fees to be put in effect would include \$507 for a restaurant with 15 or fewer seats, and \$725 for a restaurant with at least 150 seats. The food service license fee for operating a bed and breakfast would be \$217 a year. The fees for temporarily restaurants would be \$51 for a single day event and \$72 for a seasonal or multi-day event. The inspection fee for tourist facilities, such as an organizational camp, would be \$83, and the fee for pools and spas would be \$221 for the first pool/spa and \$110 for the second.

Carrie Brogoitti, public health administrator for the Center for Human Development, said CHD has not increased its food license fees since 2014. She said the increase would bring the CHD's fees up to what they would have been if CHD had increased these fees by 3% each year since 2014.

The fees cover inspections conducted by CHD to ensure these facilities are safe for the community. CHD is requesting the fee increase because of the rising costs of operating its environmental health services program, which cover food service, pool and spa and motel inspections.

See Fees / Page 5A



Staff photo by Phil Wright

"All you need to ask yourselves before you place your vote is did we go about the processes of filing for our permit correctly? We met every single standard we were required to meet in order to obtain our permit."

— Cody Vela, chair of the warming station board

The La Grande City Council considers testimony Wednesday night concerning the conditional use appeal that has delayed the opening of the town's warming station.

## WARMING SHELTER GETS THE GREEN LIGHT

■ La Grande City Council votes to allow Union County Warming Shelter to open



Staff photo by Sabrina Thompson

Proponents of the Union County Warming Station show their support for the shelter during the city council meeting Wednesday night at the La Grande Middle School. The council vote 7-0 to allow the facility to operate at 2008 Third St. near downtown.

By Phil Wright  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande City Council voted unanimously Wednesday night in favor of allowing the Union County Warming Station to operate in its new location near downtown. And Mayor Stephen Clements promised he would take a leadership role in working toward a goal of addressing local homelessness.

Cody Vela, chair of the warming station board, said Thursday his phone was "blowing up all day" concerning the outcome at the council meeting.

"We as a board are very satisfied with the city council's decisions to overturn or deny the appeal on our conditional use permit," Vela said.

Developer Al Adelsberger in October appealed the city planning commission's decision to grant a conditional use permit for the warming station to open at 2008 Third St. near downtown. That move set up the four-hour public hearing Wednesday night for the council to determine if the station would have adverse effects on the neighborhood, the main criteria to consider on the appeal.

Adelsberger, as the appeal applicant, took the mic first and told the council, "I'm ready for LUBA," the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals, before launching into a multitude of reasons for upholding his appeal and keeping the shelter's doors shut.

"It's not the city council's problem," Adelsberger said. "It's a

See Shelter / Page 5A



Staff photo by Sabrina Thompson

Developer Al Adelsberger urges the La Grande City Council during its public hearing Wednesday night to uphold the appeal he filed to prevent the Union County Warming Station from opening at 2008 Third St.

## Oregon PERS initiative dropped

By Jeff Mapes  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — A business-backed effort to get Oregon voters to reduce the costs of the state's public pension system has quietly closed shop — at least for the 2020 election.

Backers had filed five potential ballot measures sponsored by two prominent Oregon political figures — former Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski and former Republican state Sen. Chris Telfer — that would revamp the benefits provided by the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System.

After earlier withdrawing three of the measures, supporters quietly dropped the last two the day before Thanksgiving.

Tim Nesbitt, the former Oregon AFL-CIO president who has worked with state business leaders on the issue, said actions taken during the last legislative session helped reduce the immediate air of crisis around a retirement system facing a \$27 billion debt. In addition, he said, the booming stock market should also help hold down increases in pension costs in the near term.

See PERS / Page 5A

## School workers sue union

■ Freedom Foundation is backing the suit

By Claire Withycombe  
EO Media Group

SALEM — Four Hillsboro school employees sued their union and school district Thursday in federal court, arguing the union slow-walks requests from employees who want to quit their unions in violation of their rights under the U.S. Constitution.

The Freedom Foundation, a Northwest organization that urges public employees to quit their unions, is backing the suit.

The four workers on Thursday sued the American Federation of Teachers, the Oregon chapter of the federation, and AFT Local 4671, as well as the Hillsboro Unified School District in Portland.

In June 2018, the U.S.

See Lawsuit / Page 5A

### INDEX

Classified.....3B    Horoscope.....3B    Spiritual Life.....6A  
Comics.....7B    Lottery.....2A    Sports.....7A  
Crossword...3B    Obituaries...3A    Sudoku.....7B  
Dear Abby....8B    Opinion.....4A    Weather.....8B

### WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

Friday 37 LOW  
Showers around

Saturday 43/37  
A shower

Sunday 43/30  
A little snow

### CONTACT US

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Email story ideas to news@lagrandeobserver.com. More contact info on Page 4A.

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