



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain
New windows and a stack of expensive plywood wait to be installed at a new house under construction on Mill Street in Joseph on Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021.

BUILDERS

Continued from Page B1

“Chris has stayed busy during the pandemic,” she said. “He hasn’t had issue getting or retaining workers.”

She said the company is booked through 2022 with houses to construct.

But materials often produce a challenge.

“His issue was cost of materials and production times that slowed him down,” she said. “During the pandemic, construction materials have taken quite a hit in term of cost. It’s risen four times since first of the year. Truss production has been delayed 16-18 weeks. That really affects a contractor’s building schedule when he can’t get a product.”

Other specific materials also have been a problem.

“Windows and the cost of metal have gone up,” she said. “We just got another notice that it’s going up first of month.”

Wood, too, particularly plywood, is expen-

sive. She said one sheet of plywood was \$20 at the end of 2020. Now it’s up to \$75.

“It’s all over the place; it’s been up and down. It’s really volatile right now,” Charlie Kissinger said of materials costs.

He’s heard different reasons for the expense of windows. “They say it’s because of the glass, but I don’t know the answer to that,” he said.

Josh Kissinger said materials such as plywood with glue or resin are up

considerably. He said such materials can be up 50% to 300%, but it differs.

“It’s not like every building material went up ‘X’ amount,” he said. “That’s kind of a tough one (to calculate).”

But all the contractors interviewed said they’re keeping busy. The Kissingers currently are in various stages with three different projects, and Wellens is winding up a variety of two-year contracts around the region.

“People seem willing to build even with the cost of materials being outrageous right now,” Charlie Kissinger said. “There are a lot of people wanting to build.”

“I mean, I just feel like it is such an important program,” said Amber Fry, a Southern Oregon farmer who supplies cafeterias and hosts field trips. “The more that people move away from

having their own gardens and from farming, I just think it becomes that much more important to keep kids in touch and give them the opportunity to learn about where their food comes from.”



Capital Press, File
Students who have visited a farm are more likely to eat fresh fruits and vegetables, a survey found.

STUDENTS

Continued from Page B1

“Some kiddos have a difficult time learning and staying focused in the traditional classroom,” she said. “But if you get them out in the garden and hand them a handful of seeds, you see how individually laser-focused they get in planting those seeds in a perfect row.”

National studies, published in the Society for Public Health Education, Childhood Obesity and Journal of Nutrition and Behavior, have also found that students who participate in farm-to-school and school garden programs are more likely to consume fresh produce.

Many farmers, too, say being part of a farm-to-school program is meaningful.

INCOME

Continued from Page B1

It’s unclear, at this point, if Lehner will ever know the answer. And the question could even be moot, given the social and economic upheaval from the pandemic.

To complicate things even more, the data Lehner used to track

income growth through 2019 won’t be available for 2020.

The data are part of the American Community Survey, a detailed questionnaire the U.S. Census Bureau administers to a sample of Americans throughout the year.

In 2020, far fewer people filled out the surveys than normal, meaning the federal gov-

ernment most likely won’t be releasing reliable data for that year, ever.

That means that when it comes to detailed information on poverty, jobs and incomes, neither Lehner nor other economists have much to go on.

“We’ve got nothing on 2020,” Lehner said. “We don’t know what happened.”

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Carpet
 - 4 Organize
 - 8 Interruption
 - 11 Colorless
 - 13 Casanova type
 - 14 Checkout scan
 - 15 Dirty politics
 - 17 Attic ends
 - 19 Wrinkled
 - 21 Baby seal
 - 22 Judicial order
 - 24 Opposite of "paleo"
 - 26 Promontory
 - 29 Went fast
 - 31 Bitingly funny
 - 33 Batman and Robin
 - 34 Maned sloth
 - 35 Name in chemicals
 - 37 Tampa Bay pro
 - 39 Loop train
 - 40 Recipe qty.
 - 42 Took a break
 - 44 Pal
- DOWN**
- 1 Hwys.
 - 2 Web addr.
 - 3 Highland tongue
 - 4 Primp
 - 5 Cry of surprise
 - 6 Calendar abbr.
 - 7 First-quarter tide
 - 8 Swigged down

Answer to Previous Puzzle

V	A	L	E	L	O	S	L	O	A	F
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				H	Y	P	E	S	R	I
K	I	L	O	A	R	C	H	I	N	G
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T	U	B	A	G	E	T	P	A	S	S

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55	56				57		58		59	60
61			62		63		64			
65							67			

- 9 It has long arms
- 10 HP wares
- 12 Lured
- 16 This plus Cu equals brass
- 18 Coiled hairdo
- 20 Drops on the grass
- 22 Fury
- 23 Union demand
- 25 Royal symbol
- 27 Napped leather
- 28 Flies alone
- 30 Hairstyles
- 32 — it up (have some laughs)
- 36 Large quantity
- 38 Roman orator
- 41 Baby food
- 43 Miniature
- 45 Stop it
- 47 Skip stones
- 49 Protuberances
- 52 Levee
- 54 Marciano stat
- 55 Ferret or hamster
- 56 Thurman of "The Golden Bowl"
- 57 Soda-can opener
- 59 Cotton gin name
- 60 Close relative
- 63 Wt. unit

110 Announcements 110 Announcements 110 Announcements

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