



HH file photo

Hunter Steffen and his sister, Kennedy Steffen eat lunch with their brothers at the Umatilla-Morrow Head Start summer meals program in 2018.

2019 Summer meal programs

By JESSICA POLLARD
STAFF WRITER

For children in Umatilla County who aren't sure where their next meal will come from, free lunch programs can help fill in the gap.

At the end of 2018, child poverty in Umatilla County was down to 19.1% from 26.3% in 2017, according to data released by Children First for Oregon. But with the number of students with free and reduced lunch eligibility still hovering above 60%, Umatilla County is home to over a dozen different summertime feeding

sites this year.

City of Hermiston Recreation Coordinator Diana Picard says this summer will be the 11th year of their summer feeding program, which has five locations including the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center. Originally, free meals were only provided for children participating in summer camps with the city.

"We ventured out and started doing different parks," Picard said, "We saw the need. A lot of kids rely on school lunches."

The first year of the program, the city served 2,500 meals. But just last year,

they served 9,400.

"We fill a gap," Picard said.

The summer lunch program at Umatilla Morrow County Head Start will feature a range of lunch-time activities for participants. Previous years featured rock painting, water balloons, visits from the mayor and fire department, and even the occasional dunk tank.

All meals at the summer sites are free for any child under 18, regardless of income level. Most meals operate on a first come, first served basis and must be consumed onsite.

<p>Free summer meals</p> <p>HERMISTON</p> <p>Hermiston High School</p> <p>600 S. First Street, Hermiston</p> <p>June 17-28, 2019</p> <p>Monday-Friday</p> <p>8 a.m. to 9 a.m.</p> <p>12 p.m. to 1 p.m.</p> <p>Armand Larive Middle School</p> <p>1497 S.W. Ninth Street, Hermiston</p> <p>June 17-28, 2019</p> <p>Monday-Friday</p> <p>8:00 to 9 a.m.</p> <p>12:00 to 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Sunset Elementary</p> <p>300 E. Catherine Avenue, Hermiston</p> <p>Monday-Friday</p> <p>June 18-July 13, 2019</p> <p>7:30 to 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>West Park Elementary</p> <p>555 S.W. Seventh Street, Hermiston</p> <p>Monday-Friday</p> <p>July 8-August 1, 2019</p> <p>7:30 to 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>11:30 to 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>Highland Hills Elementary</p> <p>450 S.E. Tenth Street, Hermiston</p> <p>Monday-Friday</p> <p>July 1-August 31, 2019</p> <p>7:30 to 8:30 a.m.</p>	<p>11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>Umatilla-Morrow Head Start</p> <p>110 N.E. Fourth Street, Hermiston</p> <p>June 17-August 9, 2019</p> <p>Monday-Friday</p> <p>11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>*Parent volunteers eat free</p> <p>*Activities offered</p> <p>Hermiston Family Aquatic Center (Excluding July 4th)</p> <p>879 W. Elm Avenue, Hermiston</p> <p>June 24-August 2, 2019</p> <p>Monday-Friday</p> <p>12:25 to 12:45 p.m.</p> <p>Butte Park (Excluding July 4th)</p> <p>1245 N.W. Seventh Street, Hermiston</p> <p>June 24-August 2, 2019</p> <p>Monday-Friday</p> <p>12:15 to 12:45 p.m.</p> <p>Sunset Park (Excluding July 4th)</p> <p>1100 N.E. Fourth Street, Hermiston</p> <p>June 24-August 2, 2019</p> <p>Monday-Friday</p> <p>11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>Victory Square (Excluding July 4th)</p> <p>150 S.W. 10th Street, Hermiston</p> <p>June 24-August 2, 2019</p> <p>Monday-Friday</p> <p>12:30 to 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>STANFIELD</p> <p>Stanfield Public Library (excluding July 4th)</p> <p>180 W. Coe Avenue, Stanfield</p> <p>June 10-July 26, 2019</p> <p>12:00 to 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>*11:30 activity</p> <p>UMATILLA</p> <p>June 24-August 16, 2019 (excluding July 4)</p> <p>All meals are free for kids under 18</p> <p>\$1 for breakfast for adults, \$2 for Lunch and Dinner</p> <p>Umatilla High School (closed august 14-15)</p> <p>1400 Seventh Street Umatilla</p> <p>8:30 to 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>11:30 to 12:30 a.m.</p> <p>McNary Heights Elementary</p> <p>120 Columbia Avenue, Umatilla,</p> <p>8:00 to 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>5:30 to 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Triangle Park</p> <p>approx. 260 Sage Street, Umatilla</p> <p>10:30 to 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>Marina Park</p> <p>First Street, Umatilla</p> <p>11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.</p> <p>Kiwanis Park</p> <p>Next to McNary Market, Umatilla</p> <p>12:30 to 1:30 p.m.</p>
--	---	--

A passion for teaching

Rocky Heights educator found lifelong passion in teaching

By JESSICA POLLARD
STAFF WRITER

Decades later, Laurel Woodward still remembers the moment she discovered her love for teaching.

It was sixth grade, and she was in math class. When she and other kids had trouble understanding a concept, they went to the front of the room where their teacher explained it once more.

Woodward got it this time, but her other classmates were still befuddled.

"Can I teach it to them?" she asked.

In that moment, she felt that if the students could be taught from the perspective of someone like herself, who didn't understand the concept previously, it might start to make sense to them.

"I think that was the sinker for me there, just absolutely falling in love with that situation and feeling so good and so proud about that," Woodward remembered, "I thought, I want to do this."

Having her mother as a teacher was also an inspiration, Woodward said.

This year, she was honored with Rocky Height's Educator of the Year award. Although she'd been nominated in the past, it was an emotional and unexpected moment.

"They open the door, and out comes your family," she remembers.

The award is given to the nominee who receives the most staff votes.

"I was so honored first of all to even be nominated by staff," she said.

Woodward grew up in Redland, Oregon, and moved to Hermiston for a teaching job after college.

When she got the call for



Staff photo by EJ Harris

Laurel Woodward found her passion for teaching at a young age.

the interview, she happened to be in town for the Umatilla County Fair, visiting her college roommate. She ran to buy a dress and shoes, and was hired soon after.

She headed home, packed up, and prepared to start her career as a teacher.

That was 24 years ago. Today, her resume at Rocky Heights is extensive. For 10 years, she taught fourth graders.

"I loved fourth grade," she said, "It's a great age of kids."

Woodward enjoyed the English curriculum, and teaching the history of the Oregon Trail too. But when she was offered a position as the English Language Development specialist, she took it.

"It ended up being a really wonderful decision and I haven't looked back," she said.

She plans to spend the rest of her career teaching the English language.

When a flock of fifth graders approaches the classroom door, Woodward opens it up happily.

"I'll visit you when I'm grown up," one student said.

She spends up to six years with each student, focusing on speaking, writing, listening and reading skills with children in the

ELD program.

On any given day, she could be preparing kindergarteners for their state English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) or teaching older students who she's watched grow up before her own eyes. She works in 30-minute lessons with students, but knows how to make it count.

"Lots of different grade levels. You're changing gears all the time," she said. "It's almost like a personality change from one grade level to another," she laughed.

She loves the fast paced, ever-changing nature of the work. But she loves her students the most.

"I think my favorite part is being able to establish a relationship with the students, having that time to establish relationships and get to know the families and eventually the siblings," she said.

For Woodward, Rocky Heights is home. She is part of what her and other Rocky Heights Raccoons refer to as their "Rocky Family." She even met her husband 21 years ago through a colleague, and they've been together ever since.

They enjoy fishing and four wheeling on the weekends, and love to go crabbing and bottom fishing in Lincoln City along the Oregon coast.

"We like spending time outside," Woodward said.

And when she's not spending time outside, she might be found dedicating time to prepare for another ELD lesson. She recently read "There was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe."

Teaching, she said, is a passion.

"I think it needs to be something that is already within you," she said. "It is a job that is such it is something that you have to and want to love to do."

Umatilla Landing Days

IT STARTS HERE. HONORING OUR PAST, BUILDING OUR FUTURE.

JUNE 21-22 **EVENT SCHEDULE**

AT THE UMATILLA MARINA

FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS • BEER GARDEN PARADE • DANCING HORSES • DANCERS KIDS ACTIVITIES & WATER PARK!

FRIDAY EVENING

Grupo Viajero & KROME

Beer Garden Host: The Pheasant Bar & Grill

SATURDAY

Grupo Viajero Trespasser - 5pm HEADLINER:

Leah Justine - 8pm

Beer Garden Host: The Rustic Truck Bar & Grill

KROME

TRESPASSER

LEAH JUSTINE

TRACCI DIAL PARADE HOST

10:00am Saturday

Caballos Bailadores Rancho el Escondite Horse Dancers & Ballet Folklorico Estrella de Mexico

Dancers will be in the parade on Saturday and performing in the park right after.

Hermiston

U.S. Cellular
AUTHORIZED AGENT

Discover

Unlimited

with

Payback

It's the only unlimited plan that pays you back for data you don't use

\$40 per line with 4 lines

Unlimited Data with Payback, Autopay/Paperless billing and credit approval required. Taxes and charges such as USF and RCRF apply. Prices are per month. Unlimited data plan(s) will stream at speeds of up to 3.0 Mbps and will automatically shift to 2G when each line reaches 22GB. For each line that uses less than 3GB of data per month, you will also receive a \$10 payback bill credit. Additional terms apply.

Hermiston
1565 N. 1st St.
541-289-8722

Things we want you to know: New consumer or small business (20 lines or fewer) Total Plan line with Unlimited Data with Payback and credit approval required. A Regulatory Cost-Recovery Fee applies; this is not a tax or government-required charge. Additional fees, taxes, terms, conditions and coverage areas may apply and vary by plan, service and phone. Offers valid at participating locations only and cannot be combined. See store or uscellular.com for details. Unlimited data plan(s) will stream at speeds of up to 3.0 Mbps and will automatically shift to 2G when each line reaches 22GB. The speed you receive will depend on many factors, including, but not limited to, your data plan terms, the device you use, your distance from a cell tower, topography and the number of users on the network at the time of your session. Limitations and exclusions apply. Ask an associate for more details. For each line that uses less than 3GB of data per month (full bill cycle), you will also receive a \$10 payback bill credit (up to \$120/year). **Kansas customers:** In areas in which U.S. Cellular receives support from the Federal Universal Service Fund, all reasonable requests for service must be met. Unresolved questions concerning services availability can be directed to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at 1-800-662-0027. Limited-time offer. Trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners. ©2019 U.S. Cellular