



Record-setting touchdown pass

Peyton Manning makes history by throwing his 509th pass for a touchdown against San Francisco Sunday, page B1.

TUESDAY
Oct. 21, 2014

Partly sunny
54/34
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Herald and News

empowering the community | www.heraldandnews.com — Klamath Falls, Oregon — \$1

Windfall: \$122,000 more found in bed taxes

County distributes extra transient room tax funds

By SAMANTHA TIPLER
H&N Staff Reporter

The Klamath County tax office distributed additional dollars from the transient room fund in the second quarter, making it the largest second quarter

the tax has distributed recently.

At the beginning of October the Klamath County commissioners agreed to distribute roughly an additional \$122,000 to the recipients of the transient room tax. Tax Collector Rafael Hernandez said the funds were

dollars left over at the end of the fiscal year, which ended in June.

“With the transient room tax, everything gets distributed out,” he said in an interview. “At the end of the fiscal year, there was money there.”

The \$122,000 added to the

\$416,500 second-quarter revenues already distributed in August, for a total of almost \$539,000. That amounts to about \$100,000 more than in the 2013 second-quarter. In the last five years, the amount of transient room taxes collected varied from \$370,000 to \$440,000.

The transient room tax is a

fee on those who stay in local hotels, motels, inns and other overnight lodging. It is distributed to the two cities with lodging, Klamath Falls and Merrill, the Klamath County fairgrounds, the Klamath County museums, the county tourism fund and county tourism grants.

See TAX, page A3

A new addition to the Klamath Falls business scene



Sportsman's Warehouse plans site in Klamath Falls

Outdoor gear store expected to add 15-20 jobs in April 2015

By HOLLY DILLEMUTH
H&N Staff Reporter

Sportsman's Warehouse is coming to the Klamath Falls Town Center in April 2015, and is likely bringing with it 15 to 20 jobs, according to Karen Seaman, chief marketing officer for the company.

The new location will open at 1863 Avalon St., next door to Bealls department store, on April 30, 2015, and host a grand opening on May 2, 2015. Bealls department store opens Nov. 6. (The building once housed the Gottschalk's department store and had been divided into two storefronts).

“We're thrilled,” said Michael Karasik, managing partner of Argonaut Investments, a California-based development firm that is investing in the property.



Sportsman's Warehouse carries hunting, fishing, camping and outdoor gear and apparel. The store carries numerous outdoor brands, including Remington, Winchester, Danner, Under Armour and Carhartt. The company made an initial announcement of its plans on its website over the weekend.

Karasik said the development firm identified two major voids when it first came to Klamath Falls — a department store and a large outdoor retailer. Karasik said Sportsman's Warehouse was among a “bunch” of retailers Argonaut

H&N photo by Dave Martinez

The future site of a Klamath Falls Sportsman's Warehouse is likely the space between Sherm's Thunderbird and the future site of Bealls.

Investments talked with, but a high concentration of outdoor enthusiasts attracted the store to locate to the Klamath Basin.

A lease between Argonaut and Sportsman's Warehouse was finalized two to three weeks ago, according to Seaman in an email.

The main contractor for construction on the approximately 17,000-square-foot space will be Cameron Construction, a Portland-based firm, she said.

“This is a little bit smaller than Bealls,” Karasik said.

See BUSINESS, page A3

Farmers might reap subsidies on record crops

Bountiful harvest pushes prices far below average

Bloomberg News Service

WASHINGTON — A record U.S. harvest has pushed crop prices so low that taxpayers may pay billions of dollars more to subsidize farmers than anticipated just months ago, thanks in part to changes Congress approved this year.

Lawmakers passed a five-year farm law in February and hailed its projected savings in subsidies of \$14 billion over a decade. The forecast was based on farmers getting paid more for their crops. Instead, prices have fallen and may trigger subsidies the law aimed to reduce.

“This was a bill based on false premises of fake savings,” said Josh Sewell, a policy analyst with Taxpayers for Common Sense in Washington. “The prices Congress used to calculate the bill's cost were divorced from reality.”

The bill, one of the few bipartisan measures Congress passed this year, could end up costing taxpayers billions of dollars more than expected after legislators bet commodity prices would stay high and states would end programs that qualified them for higher food stamp spending.

Legislative cooperation

In reauthorizing farm policies, Democrats and Republicans crafted a compromise to overhaul programs that protect farmers from market swings or bad weather. The law replaced direct payments with programs tied to price and revenue, and raised the threshold at which farmers would get a subsidy when commodity prices fall.

Further savings were projected from spending less on food stamps, based on an assumption states would exit an aid program as eligibility rules were tightened. Most states, however, defied predictions of budget analysts and increased their contributions to “heat-and-eat” aid programs, erasing much of \$8.6 billion in projected savings.

See SUBSIDIES, page A3

DAILY BRIEFING

Efforts continue to free local woman's daughter

It's been more than six weeks since Bernadette Kero's daughter, Dr. Stacey Addison, was arrested, spent four days in jail and, since being released, was detained in East Timor. See page A2.

Candidates for governor meet for final debate

Dennis Richardson, a Republican lawmaker from Southern Oregon, is running out of time to close the gap between him and the Democratic incumbent, John Kitzhaber. See page A7.

ONLINE

H&N Events Calendar



Submit an event or find out what's happening in the Basin at

heraldandnews.com.

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