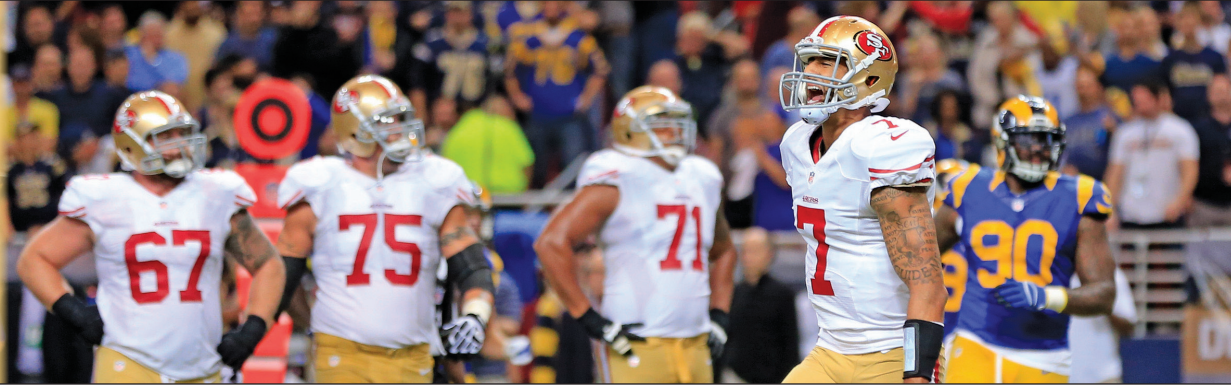


# Pro football

49ers throttle Rams, 31-17, for third straight win

See page B1



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TUESDAY  
Oct. 14, 2014



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# Herald and News

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## Hope in the air

Crater Lake-Klamath Regional Airport searches for replacement director



*"If you keep pushing and if you keep trying ... things happen. You've just got to keep the faith; if you give it up, you have nothing."*

— John Longley,  
Crater Lake-Klamath  
Regional Airport Manager

<< H&N photo by Dave Martinez

## City leaders remain optimistic about airline prospects

By HOLLY DILLEMUTH  
H&N Staff Reporter

A new commercial air service provider isn't approaching the runway at Crater Lake-Klamath Regional Airport yet, but preliminary discussions are underway between the city of Klamath Falls and one company that could land its services at the Klamath Falls Airport in 2015.

City staff are looking at the company as a way to fill the void left by Skywest's departure from the airport in June. City Manager Nathan Cherpeski wouldn't name the company, but said the style of air service they could provide would be familiar to residents. Cherpeski said a partnership with the company has "great potential" but remains only a possibility at this time.

"At this point, we're being told that they're interested," Cherpeski said Monday.

### Since SkyWest left...

■ The City of Klamath Falls and an airport consultant have contacted 25-30 airlines in hopes of drawing one to the area.

■ Airport Manager John Longley has maintained a liaison with the Air National Guard.

■ Rogue Valley-Medford International Airport has recorded its busiest September in history.

"It would be similar to what we had — It's a turbo-prop plane about the same size. We have tried a lot of possibilities and we've been told, 'No,'" he added. "This would probably provide the best and most traditional (service)."

In the five months since SkyWest dropped its Klamath Falls air service, the city and an airport consultant have contacted 25-30 airlines in hopes of landing one in Klamath Falls, according to Air-

port Manager John Longley. Longley remains optimistic about the return of air service, even if it's not on his watch.

He's retiring Oct. 31. Cherpeski said he plans to search locally for Longley's replacement.

"It's very specialized work," Cherpeski said of the position. "We'll probably, sooner than later, start to recruit for that position."

In the meantime, the Rogue Valley-Medford International Airport recorded its busiest September in history, which has been partially linked to the lack of air service in Klamath Falls.

"Our bad news is their good news," Longley said.

Longley said he has been watching ridership at the Medford airport increase, but feels Klamath Falls can still provide a more convenient option for residents.

See AIRPORT, page A3

## Community development director cut

Division merges with support services and public works

By HOLLY DILLEMUTH  
H&N Staff Reporter

City Manager Nathan Cherpeski cut the Community Development director position on Monday, a position held by Sandra Fox, and merged community development services with Public Works and Support Services.

The cuts were conducted to bring the budget in line over the next 10 years, according to Cherpeski.

Parks and planning services will remain in the building, 222 S. Sixth St., and the engineering department will move downstairs, according to Cherpeski.

"We have to identify \$370,000 of ongoing spending to bring our full budget in line," Cherpeski said Monday afternoon. "This is just a step toward that. We're trying to focus our efforts like any other business would."

See DIRECTOR, page A8



Cherpeski

## Former Merrill recorder sent to prison for embezzlement

Post-prison supervision is a condition of her release

By TRISTAN HIEGLER  
H&N Staff Reporter

A former Merrill city official pleaded guilty Monday to stealing nearly \$100,000 from city coffers over a five-year period.

Deborah Sue Fuller, 50, appeared before Judge Rodger Isaacson in the Klamath County Circuit Court Monday afternoon for a change of plea hearing. She was the Merrill city recorder.

Fuller was charged through a March 19, 2013, secret indictment with four counts of aggravated theft, eight counts of first-degree theft and one count of official misconduct.

After a plea agreement was negotiated with the Klamath County District Attorney's Office, Fuller was sentenced for the aggravated theft charge, three of the first-degree theft charges as well as the official misconduct charge.

See SENTENCE, page A3

### DAILY BRIEFING

#### Air advisories to begin as cold weather sets in

Air quality restrictions for woodstoves and outdoor burning will start Wednesday. Klamath County officials say compliance is crucial and all outdoor burning is prohibited countywide. See page A2.

#### Last day to register for Nov. 4 election arrives

If you haven't registered yet, you can still do it today at the Klamath County Clerk's Office or online at the Oregon Secretary of State's Office, where you can check if you're already registered. See page A4.

### ONLINE

#### H&N Events Calendar



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

heraldandnews.com.

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