





H&N photos by Samantha Tipler **RIGHT:** Thomas Crutchfield, 18, was excited for a selfie with Rep. Greg Walden when the congressman came to EagleRidge High School Thursday. **ABOVE:** Jordan Emary, 16, and Thomas Crutchfield, 18, juggle. **BELOW:** Rep. Greg Walden discusses science class with teacher Mark Ferrara, right, and EagleRidge High School board member Wendy Clark, left.



Walden visits Klamath Falls

Officials give Walden update on Kingsley By TRISTAN HIEGLER H&N Staff Reporter

New personnel, planes, projects and, of course, the lack of commercial airline service, were on the agenda during U.S. Rep. Greg Walden's Thursday morning visit to Kingsley Field.

Fresh off a re-election success, Walden, R-Hood River, met with various members of the command staff for the field and the 173rd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard. During the congressman's briefing, Col. Gregor Leist noted Kingsley is the sole U.S. training facility for F-15C fighter jet pilots.



Congressman tours EagleRidge school By SAMANTHA TIPLER H&N Staff Reporter

It's on 18-year-old Thomas Crutchfield's bucket list to get a selfie with a congressman. On Thursday, Rep. Greg Walden made Thomas' wish come true when the nine-term legislator visited EagleRidge High School.

"I got a selfie with him," Thomas said proudly. He was surprised how personable the Republican

Paralyzed snowboarder free to sue Mt. Bachelor

Broad liability waivers are 'unconscionable,' Supreme Court rules

By AIMEE GREEN

The Oregonian

An 18-year-old paralyzed from the waist down at Mt. Bachelor in 2006 didn't lose his rights to sue the ski resort by signing a blanket liability waiver, the Oregon Supreme Court said Thursday.

Such disclaimers are "unconscionable," the high court ruled.

The decision likely will have widespread implications beyond Oregon's ski resorts.

It could affect a broad range of recreational businesses — including ice skating rinks, rock climbing gyms and parachuting companies — that have stood steadfast behind negligence liability waivers to protect themselves from paying out millions for people who were hurt or killed.

The high court's ruling came in the case of Myles Bagley — a teenager permanently paralyzed on Feb. 16, 2006, after he launched off a jump at Mt. Bachelor terrain park.

His season pass stated that by using it at the ski resort, he agreed not to sue the resort for injury or death "even if caused by negligence," but Bagley's attorneys argued that such a release was contrary to public policy.

The attorneys contended that the resort created a dangerous condition at the terrain park by the way it set up the jump and that Bagley's \$21.5 million lawsuit should be allowed to go forward.

See KINGSLEY, page A3

H&N photo by Tristan Hiegler

Col. Gregor Leist, interim wing commander for the 173rd Fighter Wing, greeted Rep. Greg Walden Thursday morning at Kingsley Field. from Hood River was.

"Well that guy's actually pretty cool. Straight up," Thomas said. "I thought he was going to be closed-down to more ideas than he really was actually."

See SCHOOL, page A3

But the resort's attorneys contended that skiers and snowboarders are taking part in a voluntary — albeit potentially dangerous — activity.

See LIABILITY, page A3

Object lesson SPECIAL EVENT POSTERS

Antique advertisements give clues about Altamont Pavilion

By TRISTAN HIEGLER H&N Staff Reporter

Very little is known about what might have been one of the premiere venues in Klamath Falls during the early 20th century. The Altamont Pavilion, which was active in the 1920s and '30s, left behind no evidence of its existence beyond a few newspaper clippings.

That is, until three event posters were donated to the Klamath County Museum several months ago. Todd Kepple, museum manager, said the posters shed some light on the kinds and quality of the acts the pavilion attracted.

"We're just thrilled to finally have something with a tangible connection to the Altamont Pavilion, which apparently was a very popular dance hall back in the '20s and '30s," Kepple said.

The posters were donated by Klamath Falls resident Richard Hunt.

See POSTERS, page A7

H&N photo by Tristan Hiegler

Little is currently known about the Altamont Pavilion, a major event venue for the Klamath Falls area active in the 1920s. Musical performances, beauty contests and more were held at the South Sixth Street location, but its eventual fate is unknown.

DAILY BRIEFING

Local rotary club hosts annual holiday party

Dozens of kids got rides on a horse drawn carriage, presents and pictures with Santa at the fairgrounds during the Klamath Basin Sunrise Rotary Club's annual Christmas event. **See page A2.**

Celebrity-backed group offers to rescue cows

The case of two missing cows from a Pocatello meat processing business has caught the attention of a national farm animal protection organization that wants to rescue the bovines. **See page B6.**

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INDEX Vol. No. 23,807

OBITUARIES

Katie Duff, 39 David Michael Lyman, 67 Bob Mahoney, 84 Glenn Walton, 88

See page A4



NOT A GOOD EXCUSE...

Alcohol-related death is the third leading preventable cause of death in the United States and results from excessive use of alcohol.

START NOW:

Moderate alcohol consumption may provide some health benefits. Even so, the evidence about the possible health benefits of alcohol isn't certain, and alcohol may not benefit everyone who drinks.