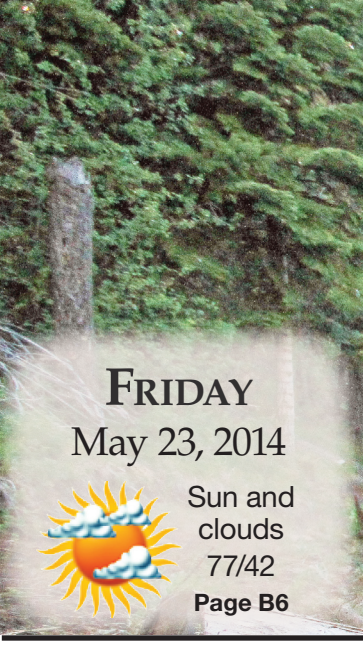


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Mountain biking in Moore Park

See OUTDOORS, page C1.

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FRIDAY
May 23, 2014

Sun and clouds
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Veterans enrichment center improves building, garden, opportunities for former members of the military

Showing growth

H&N photos by Tristan Hiegler

SPROUT: Veterans Enrichment Center volunteer Wilbur Reynolds planted the first vegetables in the center's new garden, which was created as part of a Home Depot service project Thursday morning.



More veterans find support at local enrichment center

By TRISTAN HIEGLER
H&N staff reporter

The ground was still freshly tilled when the first vegetable plants were put into the soil at the Veterans Enrichment Center's new garden. The space was added to the center during a community service project through The Home Depot that saw the creation of the garden and other improvements to the center at 1431 Avalon St.

Ben Suby, manager of Klamath Falls' The Home Depot, said he and five volunteers came out Thursday morning to plant the garden, re-coat the center's deck and donate a new roof and flooring materials.

"It's going to give them a sense of ownership and a sense of pride in growing their own food, but also it's going to ensure they have a sustainable food source," Suby said of the garden. "It's just one more way we can help put food in the mouths of the veterans that have served our country."



VOLUNTEERS: Six Home Depot employees came out to the Veterans Enrichment Center on their days off to help plant a garden and make other improvements to the transitional housing facility. Manager Ben Suby (left) and Kurt Parkton helped recoat the center's deck Thursday morning.

Suby said the project, funded by a \$12,000 grant, is one of the most comprehensive service projects the Team Depot volunteers have undertaken.

"This is kind of a big project; this isn't one of our normal projects," he said, adding that "We're always looking for veteran projects. We get a lot of this out of word of mouth."

Opened in late 2013, the Veterans Enrichment Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing sober, transitional housing for homeless and student veterans. The goal is to provide a safe space for veterans who are trying to rejoin the workforce as they build up their skills and savings.

See VETERANS, page A3

Helping out

Anyone who has a veteran service project for Team Depot to tackle can suggest the project to store manager Ben Suby. He can be reached at the store's number, 541-884-0075.

Additionally, community members who want to help the Veterans Enrichment Center's staff and guests install a new roof and floors can volunteer by calling Eric Olson at 541-205-8469. Olson said smaller pieces of furniture, clothing, food and toiletry donations are always appreciated as well.

A barbecue is scheduled for May 31 at the center. The event is being hosted by Zion Lutheran Church as a chance for the community to learn more about the nonprofit's activities. Learn more by calling 541-363-6427.

More information about the VEC is available at veteransenrichmentcenter.org.

City council mulls \$110K for police

Budget committee aims to keep officer position

By HOLLY DILLEMUTH
H&N Staff Reporter

There's a point where a department can't do more with less, Klamath Falls Police Chief Jim Hunter told members of the city's budget committee Wednesday, before eventually requesting the committee agree to fund a patrol position that could have been left unfilled.

The budget committee took the statement to heart, heeding Hunter's request to fund one patrol officer position after discussion about the \$110,000 position — which includes salary, benefits, recruitment and training costs.

See POLICE, page A4

Supporters say KU bond will help economy

Renovated school could be community investment

By SAMANTHA TIPLER
H&N Staff Reporter

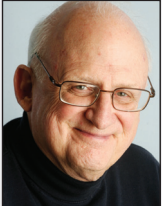
Andy High graduated from Henley High School. Today he is a government affairs manager for the Central Oregon Home Builders Association and on the Bend-La Pine Schools board. There he has seen firsthand how investing in schools can affect the local economy.

"What we've seen from investing in Bend-La Pine is the rooftops and growth," High said. "Because if you're not growing, you're dying. If you're dying, you're trying to figure out how to grow again."

See BOND, page A6

Weekender

Best bets for this weekend with Doug Higgs



The ultimate sacrifice to the nation by those who did not survive their military service will be remembered Monday.

The annual Memorial Day Parade will be in downtown Klamath Falls at 10 a.m. followed by a ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park.

At noon, there will be free chili in the American Legion Club at North Eighth and Pine

streets, free spaghetti in the Marine Corps League at 1019 Main St., and beef stew in the Elks Lodge at 601 Main St.

The American Legion Club also will have a breakfast honoring veterans from 8 to 10 a.m. and the Malin American Legion Post No. 84 will offer its annual Memorial Day breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. in the Malin Park Hall. Cost for the latter is \$7.50.

■ The Annual Heritage Days Living History Encampment will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Fort Klamath Museum.

Admission is free.

Included will be a dedication ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Fort Klamath Cemetery for a monument memorializing lives lost in military action.

■ The All-Indian Rodeo,

Crater Lake Stampede, will be on the Klamath County Fairgrounds starting at 6 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.

General admission is \$8 and for senior citizens 60 years old and older and children 12 years old and younger it's \$5, except it's free for children 5 years old and younger.

See WEEKEND, page A3

DAILY BRIEFING

One suspect arrested in vandalism incidents

The memorial at Veterans Memorial Park and a few downtown Klamath Falls buildings were hit with vandalism incidents this week, causing thousands of dollars of damage. See page A4.

Congress lifts funding for investigation of VA

Stepping up Congress' efforts to root out misconduct at the Department of Veterans Affairs, lawmakers Thursday moved to boost funding for a nationwide investigation. See page A8.

ONLINE

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OBITUARY

Delane Oliva, 71
— See page A4



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