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High school wrestling

Henley wrestlers sweep dual meets over Hidden Valley and North Valley

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THURSDAY
Jan. 23, 2014

Partly sunny
46/19
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MUD hearing draws passionate crowd

Eminent domain, reliability worries opponents; ball is in county's court

By **HOLLY DILLEMUTH**
H&N Staff Reporter

The power went to the people on Tuesday night at the Ross Ragland Theater during a three-hour public hearing that served as a platform for about 60 residents to speak their mind on a proposed municipal utility district, or MUD.

Klamath City Council members voted 3-2 in favor of tabling the issue of forming a MUD, which means they have accepted both feasibility studies — a total

cost of \$135,000 — completely and will no longer study the issue. Council members Matt Dodson, Trish Seiler and Council President Bill Adams voted in favor to table the issue. Council members Dan Tofell and Bud Hart voted not to table the issue. Tofell and Hart said they wished instead to take no further action in the future on the topic. Tabling the issue allows for the council to bring the issue up again if desired.

The potential use of eminent domain and the uncertainty

among attendees with the city's ability to run its own MUD topped the list of concerns.

The use of eminent domain proceedings would have likely been necessary to form a municipal utility district, as the utility — Pacific Power — expressed the company's assets have not and will not be for sale.

Many in the audience of about 450, such as 10-year resident Dan Williams, rejected the concept.

"The idea, folks, of just condemning property and taking it because you think you can run it better than they can — This is not the right thing to do," Williams said.

See MUD, page A3



H&N photo by Steven Silton

Ed Doremus signs in at the Ross Ragland Theater for Tuesday's city council meeting to discuss the MUD issue.

MAIN STREET BUILDING DEMOLITION



CLEARING THE WAY:

Bob's Excavating, Inc. began demolishing 200 Main St. on Wednesday, a historic building dating back to 1905. It once housed the Women's Club reading room, but in its current state of disrepair, the Klamath Falls City Council opted to clear the property.

H&N photos by Dave Martinez

To watch footage of the demolition at 200 Main St., visit heraldandnews.com. Videos are located in the center of the page.

Lawsuit challenges timber sale

Conservation group says environmental protocol was not strictly followed

GRANTS PASS (AP) — Conservation groups are challenging a timber sale that demonstrates the kind of ecosystem-driven logging that would be fast-tracked under Sen. Ron Wyden's bill to increase harvests from federally owned property in western Oregon.

Oregon Wild and Cascadia Wildlands filed the lawsuit Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Eugene.

Tree-sitters have been occupying the White Castle timber sale in the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Roseburg District since last summer.

The lawsuit alleges the federal agency failed to follow environmental laws requiring a hard look at the potential environmental impacts of the sale, including clear-cutting trees up to 150 years old, destruction of northern spotted owl habitat, and felling trees containing nests of red tree voles, a key food for spotted owls.

"Essentially, they are saying they can clear-cut 438 acres without doing an environmental-impact statement," said Steve Pedery, conservation director of Oregon Wild. "They are saying they are experimenting. The perspective we have is they are clearly responding to pressures from politicians and county government, and that they want to get back to the business of clear-cutting to supplement county budgets."

See TIMBER, page A3

Downtown demolition planned for week

By **HOLLY DILLEMUTH**
H&N Staff Reporter

Demolition of one of downtown Klamath Falls' most historic buildings began Wednesday.

The sidewalks around the former Fred Melhase building at 200 Main St., are blocked off with fences, and some parking spots near the historic building also have been closed so that Bob's Excavating can tear down the building. City Council approved Bob's Excavating for the job.

Crews started showing up early Wednesday morning and began the demolition of the north side of the building at about 11 a.m., according to Project Manager Lewis Friend. Friend said the company plans to salvage some of the historic stone from the building this week.

"We're going to separate it best as we can," Friend said of the stone, adding that some area residents have expressed interest in salvaging bricks from the building.

See DEMO, page A3



TUMBLING DOWN: Bricks are torn from the side of 200 Main St. Wednesday during the building's demolition.

DAILY BRIEFING

Oregon sees brighter economic outlook

Unemployment figures have reached a five-year low for the state at just 7 percent, signalling the beginning of an economic recovery after the national recession. See page A4.

Agriculture: Irrigation regulations tightened

As KWAPA predicts a significant water shortage for the upcoming growing season, loopholes have been closed and farmers are required to provide proof of irrigation needs. See page A6.

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HEALTHY Klamath

Did You Know?

Community Partners Seeking Better Health

The student/teacher ratio in Klamath County is **19.9** students per teacher (not a measure of class size)

Why is this important?
The student-teacher ratio gives a rough idea of the amount of individualized attention from teachers that is available to each student. Although it is not the same as class size, the student-teacher ratio is often a reasonable alternative on which to base estimates of class size. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, larger schools tend to have higher student-teacher ratios.

The Community Partners Seeking Better Health want to improve this number. To learn more, go to: www.healthyklamath.org or scan the QR code.

Scan the QR code to learn more