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Page B1
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WEDNESDAY
 April 2, 2014
 Clouds and sun
 52/26
 Page B6

Herald and News

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Area cable show ends

'This Week in Klamath County' will broadcast its final episode Wednesday

By SAMANTHA TIPLER
H&N Staff Reporter

"This Week in Klamath County," the local cable television show hosted by Joe Spendolini, is airing its final episode today.

The 6 p.m. broadcast on cable channel 14 will be a debate between the three candidates running for Klamath County commissioner: Kelley Minty Morris, Bob Moore and Jeff Houston.

"The program has been airing for just under four years now and I can honestly say that I am very proud of the work we've done," Spendolini told the Klamath County commissioners during their weekly public meeting Tuesday. "My initial goal was to create a one-hour program that would dig deeply into important, and sometimes complex issues in our community, and I think we achieved that goal and more."

The show was Spendolini's endeavor, he said. The first program aired in August 2010. Then commissioners Al Switzer, Cheryl Hukill and John Elliot agreed to broadcast it. The county paid employees to man the cameras but Spendolini volunteered his time.

See SHOW, page A3

Leading Cover Oregon tech official resigns

Chief information officer Aaron Karjala has worked on the exchange since May

PORTLAND (AP) — The house-cleaning continues at Oregon's troubled health-insurance exchange, with the resignation of a fourth top manager.

Cover Oregon's chief information officer Aaron Karjala, who has worked to fix the botched exchange since May, resigned on Monday, spokeswoman Ariane Holm said.

The resignation comes two weeks after Gov. John Kitzhaber told Cover Oregon's board to replace Karjala and chief operating officer Triz delaRosa.

An independent investigation found state managers repeatedly failed to heed reports about technical problems that prevented the exchange from launching. It still doesn't work.

See RESIGNATION, page A3

Mudslide disaster



Matt Dunningan, right, an American Red Cross volunteer, points out some of the flood damage caused by the Oso, Wash., mudslide near Darrington, north of the disaster. A few volunteers from the Klamath Falls area are among the many helping victims and emergency responders manage the aftermath of the mudslide.

Klamath Falls volunteers offer aid

By TRISTAN HIEGLER
H&N staff reporter

Amid the devastation of the Washington mudslide, Klamath Falls volunteers with the American Red Cross are working to make a difference in the lives of disaster victims and emergency responders.

Jerry Hall, Klamath Falls, is currently at the Red Cross' headquarters in Marysville, Wash., where he's helping to organize supply deliveries to disaster victim shelters and emergency work crews throughout the region.

"Our primary job is to get stuff in and get stuff out as quickly as we can to people that need it," Hall said.

A former firefighter who worked in Southern California, Hall said volunteering with the Red Cross Southern Oregon Chapter (headquartered in Medford) was a natural transition.

'It's seeing the good in people — they're all equal; they're all stepping up and doing what they can.'

— Jerry Hall
Klamath Falls volunteer

"It's rewarding to be able to go and offer assistance to people in time of a disaster and do whatever we can to help them," he said.

As of Tuesday, the official death toll from the March 22 disaster in Oso, Wash., had climbed to 28. Nineteen victims have been positively identified by the Snohomish County medical examiner's office, according to the Associated Press.

According to Hall, Klamath County resident Julie Morrill also is

helping the mudslide victims. He said Morrill's duties entail traveling from shelter to shelter, dealing directly with disaster victims and trying to get them whatever aid they might need.

"A big part of what we're doing is trying to augment what the communities themselves are doing," Hall said. "We're here to offer any kind of assistance we can give them."

Mental health support

A large component of the services being offered, both to victims and emergency responders, is mental health counseling. Hall said it's important to provide emotional support for both the people who have lost loved ones and had their property destroyed as well as those finding the bodies in the debris of the slide itself.

See AID, page A3



How you can help

To donate to the Southern Oregon Chapter, call 541-884-4125 and designate the contribution as for disaster relief. To contact the national organization, visit redcross.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Klamath Falls volunteer Jerry Hall is helping the American Red Cross and FEMA get supplies out to victims of the Washington mudslide, like the operation picture here.

Photos courtesy of the American Red Cross

DAILY BRIEFING

No human injuries in Klamath barn fire

A rural barn was declared a total loss due to fire damage. A heat lamp was blamed for the blaze that killed several farm animals, including chickens, turkeys and a goat. See page A2.

Death toll in Syrian conflict hits 150,000

The latest figures from the Syrian civil war show loss of life in the hundred thousands. Civilian deaths account for a third of the high fatality rates. See page B5.

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INDEX

Vol. No. 23,584

Annie's Mailbox.....B6
 Obituary.....A7
 City/Region.....A2
 Classified.....C3-7
 Comics, crossword.....C8
 Forum.....A6
 Law enforcement.....B5
 Lotteries.....B3
 Sports.....B1-3

OBITUARY

Jeffrey Mahan, 53
— See page A7



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