Pacific Power sues city

Eminent domain, public utility district at heart of lawsuit

By HOLLY DILLEMUTH

H&N Staff Reporter

Pacific Power is suing the City of Klamath Falls and Mayor Todd Kellstrom, challenging a franchise agreement between the entities approved by members of city council in December.

The company filed the legal complaint Thursday, asking the U.S. District Court in Medford to declare the ordinance containing the agreement

Nearly one year since council tabled

an effort to form its own public utility district, Pacific Power alleges that the city is trying to limit compensation to the company within the ordinance in the case of a renewed municipal utility district effort.

See LAWSUIT, page A3



Read the complaint online



To read Pacific Power's letter of complaint filed against the city of Klamath Falls with the U.S. district Court in Medford, see this story at heraldandnews.com.

'A River Between Us'

Documentary profiles Basin-wide water conflict and the potential for resolution



Submitted photo

Message: If you allow people, they'll heal a river

By LACEY JARRELL

H&N Staff Reporter

A resource more valuable than oil flows through the Klamath Basin.

"Look at the Klamath Basin: It's long, and it's complicated. It starts in the high desert; it ends in the redwoods.

"Everyone in those communities can buy gasoline. If it doesn't snow, communities are in peril," said Jason Atkinson, a former Oregon Senator-turned-filmmaker. "Water is more valuable than oil."

In his 90-minute documentary, "A River Between Us," Atkinson and co-producer Jeff Martin profile Klamath Basin water stakeholders and the water-related controversies that have pitted them, neighbor against neighbor, for decades. The film, according to its synopsis, is a "call to action on behalf of the largest

restoration project in American history." For the film, Atkinson and Martin spent two years completing 70 interviews, diving into the extremes of water conflict and everything in between.

"The way we've designed it is to appeal to people that, frankly, don't pay attention to issues like agriculture and Native Americans and how all those pieces go together," Atkinson said. "The Klamath Basin is a model for the nation."

See DOCUMENTARY, page A3

According to the documentary's synopsis, "A River Between Us" is a "call to action on behalf of the largest restoration project in Ameri-

Watch the trailer



can history."

A trailer for the feature documentary, "A River Between Us," can be seen at http://vimeo. com/109872971. An

interview with filmmaker Jason Atkinson can be seen at http:// vimeo.com/106255384.

Surprise Valley

Muddled **future for Healthcare District**

Board reappoints three members who resigned

By LEE JUILLERAT

H&N Regional Editor

ALTURAS — Confusion continues on matters involving the financially troubled Surprise Valley Healthcare District.

During Tuesday's Modoc County Supervisors meeting it was announced the supervisors will reappoint the three board members who ran unopposed in last November's election, as is required by law. The three incumbents - Bunne Hartmann, Cindy Linker and Robert James Laacke — had no

challengers. In December, Hartmann and Linker, along with hospital board member Jason Diven, resigned after they and the other two board members, Laacke and Carl Quigley, were asked to resign by Healthcare District CEO Richard Cornwell.

Chester Roberston, Modoc County's chief administrative officer, said Modoc County Counsel Margaret Long told Cornwell the board is legally required to appoint Hartmann, Linker and Laacke. It remains uncertain, however, if the three who reportedly resigned can, or want to, rescind their resignations.

Robertson said Long and others noted the Surprise Valley Healthcare District is an independent district.

See HEALTHCARE, page A3

DAILY BRIEFING

Comment period extends for Groundwater rules

The comment period for proposed upper Basin groundwater rules has been extended to March, due to an incorrect description of the off-project area. See page A2.

Supreme Court to settle gay marriage dispute

Setting the stage for its most significant ruling ever on gay rights, the U.S. Supreme Court said Friday it would resolve the state-by-state battle over samesex marriage. See page A4.

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The average annual earnings for a high school dropout in 2012 were \$24,492, compared with \$33,904 for a high school graduate and \$55,432 for a college graduate.

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