



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

Collier State Park and Logging Museum will host its 16th annual Living History Day Sunday.

Limelighter, C1

Falcons fall

The Klamath Falls Falcons couldn't hold on to an early lead, losing to Medford, 14-4, Wednesday night.

Page B1



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THURSDAY
June 17, 2010



Mostly
sunny.
64/38
Page B4

Daily briefing

LOCAL

Museum hit with vandalism

Vandals used bricks to smash windows at the Baldwin Hotel Museum on Main Street, causing interior damage and destroying artifacts inside. **See page A2.**

20 arrested in drug bust

Twenty people were arrested early Wednesday morning as local law enforcement targeted drug activity in the Klamath Falls area. **See page A2.**

NATION

Oil giant offers \$20 billion

President Barack Obama wrested a \$20 billion compensation guarantee from BP Wednesday, announcing a major claims fund for those whose lives and livelihoods are being wrecked by the oil spill in the Gulf. **See page A10.**

AGRICULTURE

U.S. mint crop declining

Although buyers are now willing to pay farmers more when fuel and other costs increase, the future in mint farming is uncertain. **See page A8.**

OBITUARIES

Lola Gage, 78
William Warner, 79
Nadine Gouette, 71
Walter Firestone, 90
Manuel McBride, 94
Page A4

Market report

Wednesday

Dow Jones **+4.69**
industrials 10,409.46

See page A4 for stocks.

INDEX Vol. No. 22,295

AgricultureA8
Annie's Mailbox.....B4
Astrograph.....D8
City/Region.....A2
Classified.....D1-7
Comics, crossword.....D8
Law enforcement.....A5
Lotteries.....B3
Sports.....B1-3
Stocks.....A4
Viewpoints.....A6

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Road funds to help schools

County agrees to transfer \$3 million to city and county districts

By **RYAN PFEIL**
H&N Staff Writer

Klamath County will transfer \$3 million in road funds to the Klamath County School District and Klamath Falls City

Schools for capital improvement projects, a move that will free up funding and could prevent further school budget cuts.

The Klamath County Commissioners on Wednesday unanimously approved the transfer,

citing a state statute that allows county road funds in excess of \$2 million to be transferred to fund schools east of the Cascade Mountains.

The county school district will receive \$1.8 million, and the city

schools will receive \$1.2 million.

Education officials said the transfer would help to offset cuts in other areas. It will save about \$800,000 from the general fund for the city district.

See SCHOOLS, page A3

Landing that summer job

With the area's high unemployment rate, teenagers and college students are struggling to find needed work this year



H&N photo by Andrew Mariman

Julia Lopez, 17, pours tea for a customer at Avalon Salon and Spa Tuesday. Lopez works full time, about 35 hours per week, at the salon and landed the job through the youth employment program at WorkSource Klamath.

'It's hard enough for adults to find jobs, but with kids, I think it's even worse.'

— **Tiffany Preston, WorkSource Klamath youth employment counselor**

By **RYAN PFEIL**
H&N Staff Writer

Julia Lopez knows what it's like to search for a job and come up empty-handed.

The 17-year-old EagleRidge High School graduate searched for two months off and on, filling out applications at several businesses, including "all the fast food restaurants." Her

efforts were to no avail.

"I never really got a response back," she said.

Lopez finally landed a job at the Avalon Salon and Spa through WorkSource Klamath's youth employment program and now works six to seven hours a day five days a week. She loves the work and is thankful for the job.

But, experts say, many other

area high school students haven't been as lucky.

"I think a lot of employers would like to hire people, but they can't because they don't have additional funding," said WorkSource Klamath youth employment counselor Tiffany Preston. "It's hard enough for adults to find jobs, but with kids, I think it's even worse."

See JOB, page A3

Deal for jail funds unlikely

Legislature blocks request for opinion from attorney general

By **TY BEAVER**
H&N Staff Writer

A \$700,000 exchange between Klamath County and the city of Klamath Falls to fund the county jail is likely off the table.

The Oregon Legislature will not allow the state attorney general to consider a request for a legal opinion on whether the two governments can exchange restricted county road funds for unrestricted city general funds, according to state Rep. Bill Garrard, R-Klamath Falls. Garrard submitted the request on the county and city's behalf.

Klamath County Commissioner Cheryl Hukill said the board of commissioners would no longer consider the fund exchange, adding that commissioners already were concerned about its legality.

"There's no sense going on with it," she said.

See DEAL, page A7

Inside: Sheriff Tim Evinger has until June 30 to reduce the jail's capacity from 152 to 64 beds after commissioners approved his inmate-release plan. **A7**

KBRA still waiting for federal legislation

Parts of the agreement can proceed under existing funding and laws, supporters say

By **TY BEAVER**
H&N Staff Writer

Three months after stakeholders, including two governors and a top federal official, signed the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, work continues to implement it and a related Klamath River dam removal deal.

But until there's federal legislation and millions of dollars in funding, there's only so much that can be done.

"I wouldn't say it's in a holding pattern," said Paul Simmons, attorney for Klamath Water Users Association and its member irrigation districts, "but the whole effort

can't land until there's federal legislation."

The agreement aims to resolve water conflicts in the Klamath River Basin between irrigators, tribes, fisheries and conservations. It also advocates removal of four Klamath River dams to provide fish passage.

Stakeholders signed the restoration and dam removal agreements in February, ending years of closed-door negotiations and talks.

Now, those stakeholders are focused on implementing the documents, said Ed Sheets, a consultant originally hired to facilitate negotiations.

See KBRA, page A10



'There's a whole galaxy of folks who want to see our agreement occur.'

— **Steve Kandra, board member, Klamath Water Users Association**

Inside

■ Federal and state officials will host public meetings as part of the scientific and legal review of the document. **A10**

■ Did outcome of primary elections impact the water and dam removal agreements? It depends on who you ask. **A10**