

# Retaining wall in place; next comes the foundation for new H&N building

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Workers put the last block in place Tuesday to complete a 12,000-square-foot retaining wall at the site where the Herald and News will build a new office.

Now work will continue moving earth from a noticeable pile at the construction site at 2701 Foothills Blvd. to behind the wall.

“That will go away and they will slope it into the original hillside,” said Thom Darrah, project manager for Bogatay Construction of Klamath Falls.

Bogatay is the lead contractor. Subcontractors will be hired to do smaller projects in the construction of the 39,000-square-foot building.

Bellet Construction, also of Klamath Falls, is moving earth at the site and Darkhorse Construction, of Portland, put together the wall.

The wall is made from about 12,000 concrete blocks filled with gravel, said Scott Souders, an engineer with ZCS Engineering of Klamath Falls.

Work on the wall took about three-and-a-half weeks, Darrah said.

The wall is 650 feet long and, near the middle, its highest point is about 30 feet above the landing where the building will be built.

This summer workers began moving 120,000 cubic yards of earth from the hill, known to many as Motorcycle Hill, to make room for the new newspaper building. Much of the earth was moved off site, but 50,000 cubic yards were kept in a huge pile to be put behind the retaining wall and to fill in other dips and divots around the site.

With the wall done, the earth is going back into the hill and the pile should be gone in the next couple of weeks, Darrah said. Already a third to half of the pile is back in the hill.

The next step will be getting permits so contractors can start pouring the building's concrete foundation. Herald and News Publisher Heidi Wright said the permits should be in place in the next six weeks.



**The retaining wall at the new Herald and News building site measures 650 feet long and contains about 12,000 cement blocks filled with gravel.**

The steel frame of the building should start going up in March, Darrah said.

To save money, Wright said the Herald and News is opting to use “pre-engineered” steel, or metal support structures that aren't built on site. Using pre-engineered steel will cut costs by about \$500,000. Overall cost of the building will be between \$10 million to \$15 million.

The finished building, with two office wings and a new printing press, should be done by 2007, Wright said.

Test wells drilled in recent months have shown that there is a geothermal heat source below the site.

“We are definitely going to be able to geothermally heat the building and possibly geothermally cool it,” Wright said.

The Herald and News' current building at 1301 Esplanade Ave. is 19,600 square feet.

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**Wayne Yunker of Bellet Construction rolls out a line of fabric above the retaining wall at the new Herald and News building site off Foothills Boulevard. The last cement block on the 27-foot high by 650-foot long wall was put in place Tuesday. The fabric will tie the 12,000 square-foot wall into the side of the hill.**