



# Robotics team victory

Three youth robotics teams that took part in a regional tournament for FIRST Lego League Robotics will advance to the state competition next month

See page A2

**Superfly!**  
\$10 for \$20 Worth of Food & Drinks

**Waldo's Bar & Grill**

heraldandnews.com/superfly

SATURDAY  
Dec. 28, 2013

Freezing fog, mostly sunny  
40/14  
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# Herald and News

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## On Duty

## SATURATION PATROL

# Vigilant officers



**LEFT:** Klamath County Sheriff's deputy Westley Packer writes a citation for a driver Christmas Eve night during a saturation patrol.

H&N photos by Dave Martinez

### About this series

There are hundreds of employees in Klamath County working in the public safety sector. In this monthly series, the Herald and News will ride along with emergency personnel and explore the inner workings of agencies responsible for keeping the community safe.

# New year, new laws

## Oregon residents will face dozens of new regulations in 2014

SALEM (AP) — As 2013 becomes 2014 on Wednesday, dozens of new laws will be taking effect across Oregon.

Expect a few higher fines and fees, new crimes to avoid committing and new workplace rules.

Tobacco taxes will go up, and you'll face a fine if you're caught smoking one of those more expensive cigarettes in a car with a minor.

Minors will be prohibited from tanning beds. Employers won't be allowed to demand access to their workers' social media accounts. Fines will go up for using a cellphone while driving.

Here's a look at some of the wide variety of new laws that hit the books on Jan. 1:

■ Standard fines for using a cellphone while driving will increase \$50 to \$160, and judges will be allowed to go as high as \$500 — double the current maximum. So far in 2013, Oregon State Police troopers have nabbed 3,500 people for such violations and issued another 1,600 warnings, Lt. Gregg Hastings said. That's up from 2,151 citations and 1,878 warnings last year.

■ Cigarette taxes will climb 13 cents to \$1.31 a pack. The state Revenue Department says tobacco taxes bring in about \$250 million a year to support the Oregon Health Plan and the state general fund. Most of the additional revenue will go to mental health services.

■ Officers will be able to write tickets for people they catch smoking in a vehicle if a minor is present. It will be a secondary offense, which means the officer will only be able to issue a citation if the vehicle is pulled over for committing another traffic violation like speeding or running a red light.

■ Tying up a dog in a manner that causes an injury to the animal will be a crime.

See LAWS, page A5

## Extra patrols to enforce DUI laws during holidays

By DAVE MARTINEZ  
H&N Staff Reporter

On a normal night, Klamath County Sheriff's deputy Westley Packer wouldn't target vehicles for burned out plate lights or expired vehicle registration. But Christmas Eve is different.

Tonight is a saturation patrol. With financial support from state and community partners, the Klamath Falls Police Department, Klamath County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police are staffing extra officers to search for impaired drivers.

A tradition for years, officers hope to send a strong message about driving drugged or drunk. By making their presence known, they hope to deter a person from getting behind the steering wheel when they shouldn't.

For Packer, this is a normally scheduled patrol shift. But the number of deputies available to provide backup for the man is

unusual. About half a dozen deputies are working tonight, most in marked vehicles. Packer, a 24-year-old deputy finishing his first year with the sheriff's office, is not in a marked vehicle.

The white, unmarked car allows him to sit near a T-intersection in the South Suburbs, watching traffic without being too noticeable.

"If they make an effort to slow down and stop, I'm probably not going to pull them over," Packer says as a car seems to notice his presence. It comes to a complete stop, pauses a second, then moves on.

Packer was a Klamath Falls Police Department reserve officer for a year and a half before being hired by the sheriff's office. As a patrol deputy, he can be expected to handle any kind of situation, sometimes on his own; tight budgets usually keep about two to three deputies on the street per night.

Occasionally, reserve deputies



**SCENE OF THE CRIME:** Klamath County Sheriff's deputy Westley Packer draws a quick map on his hand to show another deputy the scene of a hit and run crash.

will volunteer their time to provide a bit of support. For an agency that has to police more than 6,000 square miles, backup

could be an hour away or more, even with lights and sirens.

See DUTY, page A3

## League of Women Voters seeks nonpartisan elections

By LEE BEACH  
H&N Staff Reporter

### MARCH

**March 5** — League of Women Voters had its ballot initiative seeking to make county commissioner elections and positions nonpartisan approved. The initiative was the only one scheduled for the

May 21 ballot.

**March 7** — Klamath Falls Gospel Mission submitted revised plans to the city for a new women's shelter and dining hall across from the mission at the corner of Walnut and South Ninth Street. The mission is working to raise \$1.6 million required for the project.

**March 8** — After 40 years, water right adjudication arrived in the Klamath Basin. Adjudication determines whether a water right is senior or junior. The document was driven from Salem to Klamath Falls, where Judge Cameron Wogan, presiding judge of Klamath County Courts, would handle all stays of excep-

tion or appeals filed. The Oregon Water Resources Department would start enforcing local water rights this irrigation season. Tribal rights are senior, according to the Tribes' water attorney. Upper Basin irrigators were expected to be affected adversely.

See REVIEW, page A3

## Year in Review: March — April

**Editor's note:** Here is a look back at the events that affected the Klamath Basin in March and April. Coming in Sunday's Herald and News, a review of events from May and June.

### DAILY BRIEFING

#### Oregon Ducks defense coordinator retiring

On Friday, the University of Oregon's Nick Aliotti announced his plans to retire after next week's game against Texas in the Alamo Bowl. See page B1.

#### City council decides on plan for snow removal

The new plan lays out the city's responsibilities to manage travel conditions within city limits for snow, ice and extreme temperatures. See page A4.

### ONLINE



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## HEALTHY Klamath

### Did You Know?

Community Partners Seeking Better Health

# 41.9

 deaths occur due to diabetes per 100,000 population in Klamath County

#### Why is this important?

Diabetes is a group of diseases marked by high levels of blood glucose, also called blood sugar, resulting from defects in insulin production, insulin action, or both. In 2007, diabetes was the seventh leading cause of death in the United States and an estimated 23.6 million people or 7.8% of the population had diabetes. The prevalence of diagnosed type 2 diabetes increased six-fold in the latter half of the last century. Diabetes risk factors such as obesity and physical inactivity have played a major role in this dramatic increase. Age, race, and ethnicity are also important risk factors.

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

Scan the QR code to learn more

