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New Year's Day log

How Basin residents celebrated the first day of 2014



Mark Doolittle (left) and Richard Quinn fish for rainbow trout in near-freezing temperatures at Putnam's Point.

H&N photos by Lacey Jarrell

By LACEY JARRELL
H&N staff writer

9 a.m. — Hangover Handicap

Warm temperatures and clear skies New Year's Day led the 2014 Hangover Handicap to become the second highest attended.

"It's the best weather we've ever had," said organizer Alden Gidden.

This year 93 people — two more than last year — ran the 2.3 mile race, which loops through downtown Klamath Falls. The Handicap is sponsored by the Linkville Lopers.

Adrian Mateos, who spent the holiday eve playing poker with family, participated in his fifth handicap this year.

"We have to have an energetic way to start the New Year," he said.

Grace Rusth, who is marathon training, ran with her 10-year-old son, Addison, and her Dalmatian-mix, Gusto. She said this year's handicap was better than her previous two.

"It was the best run of the year," she said, pun intended.

Winners of the men's and women's division shared a familiar hello when receiving their beer-can trophies.

Both attended Klamath Union High School and have been acquaintances since childhood.

Chris Reed, 25, finished the race with 12.18. He took first for the men's division and the overall race. This is his fourth handicap.

"For a lot of us, running is the one constant in our lives. The race is a way to celebrate that," he said.

Christina Tyson, 19, won the women's division with a time of 15.21. Tyson, a fresh-



Ryan Weider (left) and Adrian Mateos race New Year's Day in the 2014 Hangover Handicap. This was Mateos' fifth time running the Handicap.

man at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., plans to join the track team after returning to school Jan. 12.

Runner Daniel Gardner improved his time from last year by a minute and a half, to 16.15. Gardner said he might try to improve his time in 2014, but his 5-year-old daughter Mia has other plans. She wants to "go fishing."

10:45 a.m. — Putnam's Point

New Year's Day fishing report from Putnam's Point: Ode to Pepe Le Pew.

The six men who fished the mouth of the Link River Wednesday morning had only one bite, and no fish had been landed at the time of this report.

Mark Doolittle arrived at the point at 7 a.m. Despite the morning's slow pace, he was happy with the decision to spend New Year's Day fishing.

"This beats having to vacuum," he said.

Fisherman Richard Quinn agreed. "I'd rather be here than watching TV," he said.

See LOG, page A3

Oregon minimum wage climbs by 15 cents

Second-highest rate in U.S.

Oregon Public Broadcasting

Many Oregonians earning the minimum wage will see slightly larger paychecks in 2014. The state's minimum wage increases 15 cents with the New Year, to \$9.10 an hour.

Workers have Ballot Measure 25 to thank for the raise. The voter initiative passed in 2002. It provides for annual cost of living adjustments tied to the Consumer Price Index.

Nick Beleiciks, an economist with Oregon's Employment Department, says the state has nearly 100,000 workers who earn the minimum wage. Most are either in the hospitality or retail industries.

"The increase in the minimum wage means that workers working full time at their job would get about \$312 more per year," Beleiciks said. "That's not going to apply for everybody, because a lot of minimum wage jobs aren't really full time."

Oregon continues to have the second-highest minimum wage among the states. Only Washington's is higher. With the New Year, Oregon's minimum wage is \$1.85 higher than the federal minimum wage.

New Calif. law requires gun registration

Buyers of rifles, shotguns affected by new regulation

Scripps Howard News Service

REDDING, Calif. — A new California law that requires stores to register the sale of rifles and shotguns with the state has helped spur businesses at gun shops as consumers rush to beat the Jan. 1 deadline.

And while gun owners grumble about the new rules, dealers say the law will do little to hurt the sale of firearms in California. Starting Wednesday, all rifle sales in California will be treated the same way handgun sales have been in the state since the 1970s.

In addition to an individual background check, a dealer record of sale that includes the make, model and serial...

See GUNS, page A3

DAILY BRIEFING

Diversions: Exploring the Oregon outdoors

H&N staff members share their favorite hiking sites and offer bucket lists for what to do in the upcoming year. From Crater Lake to the Lava Beds caves, the area offers many adventures. See page C4.

Agriculture: Tough water year takes economic toll

Basin ranchers suffered a heavy monetary loss when their irrigation water was cut off this summer. The deficit may force some to give up raising yearlings. See page A6.

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Did You Know?
Community Partners Seeking Better Health

Klamath County experiences **126.21** violent crimes per 10,000 population



Why is this important?
A violent crime is a crime in which the offender uses or threatens to use violent force upon the victim. Violent crimes include homicide, assault, rape, and robbery. Violence negatively impacts communities by reducing productivity, decreasing property values, and disrupting social services. In the United States in 2009, an estimated 1,318,398 violent crimes occurred. This equates to an estimated 42.9 violent crimes per 10,000 population nationwide.

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

Scan the QR code to learn more

